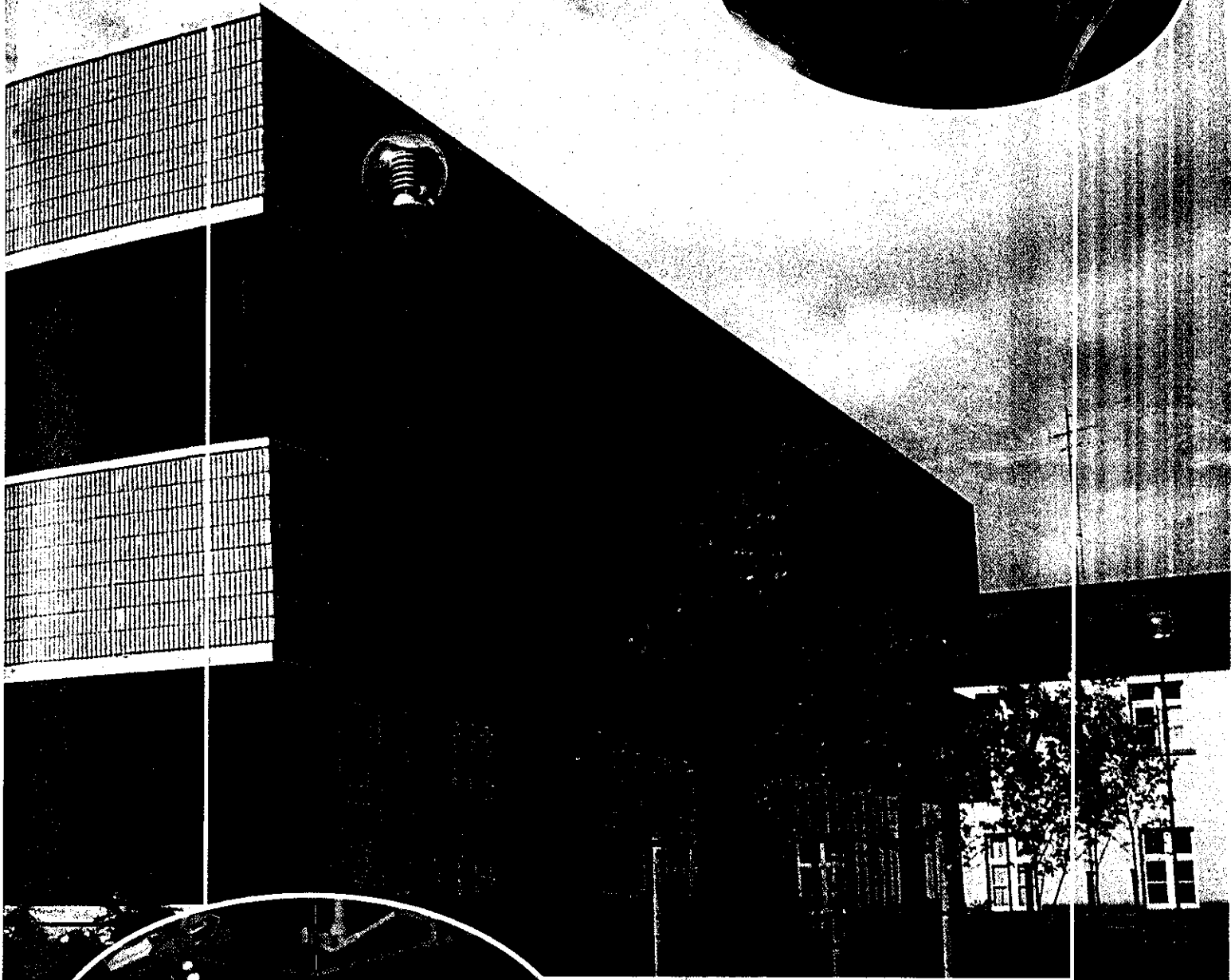
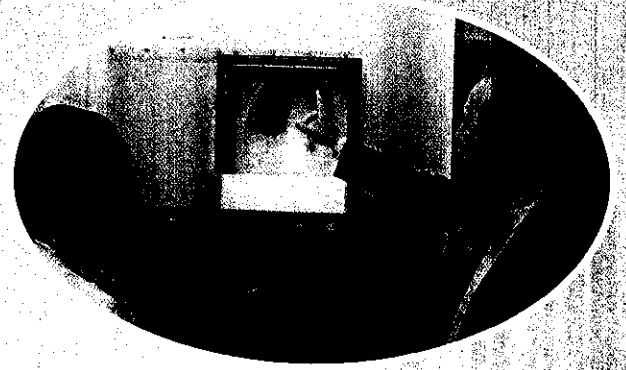




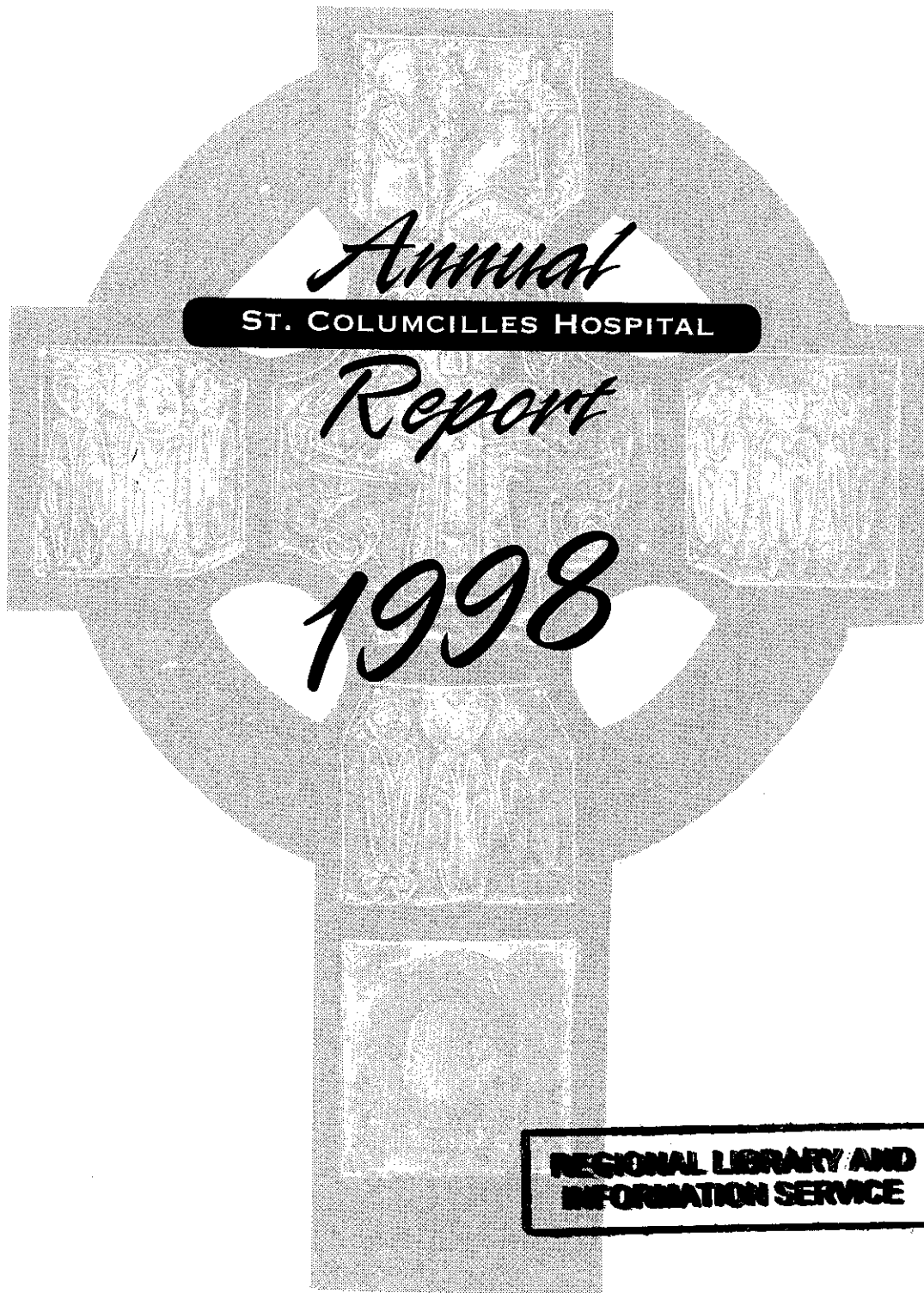
**EASTERN
HEALTH
BOARD**

**BORD
SLAINTE
AN OIRTHIR**



ANNUAL REPORT 1998

ST. COLUMCILLES HOSPITAL



ST. COLUMCILLES HOSPITAL

Annual

Report

1998

**REGIONAL LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SERVICE**

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INFORMATION SERVICE**

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EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

BOARD MEMBERS

Members appointed by Local Authorities

Dublin Corporation

Cllr. R. Shorthall, T.D., 12 Iveragh Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9.

Cllr. Ben Briscoe, T.D., Dail Eireann, D.2.

Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D., 32 Ashdale Road, Terenure, D6W

Cllr. I. Calliely, T.D. 7 St. Laurence Road, Clontarf, D3

Cllr. J. Connolly (Vice-Chairman) 39 Hughes Road South, Walkinstown, Dublin 12.

Cllr. Michael Barrett, 102 Glasnevin Avenue, D.11

Cllr. Mary Flaherty, "Jessefield", 2 Dartry Road, Dublin 6.

Dublin South County Council

Cllr. C. O'Connor, C/O South Dublin County Council, P.O. Box 4122, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Cllr. Stanley Laing, 86 Templeville Road, Terenure Dublin 6 W.

Cllr. Pat Upton, T.D. 1 College Drive, Templeogue D6 W

Fingal County Council

Cllr. C. Gallagher, 16 Glasmore Park, Swords, Co.Dublin (Chairman)

Cllr. A. Devitt, Lispopple, Swords, Co.Dublin

Cllr. K. Farrell, 4 The Drive, Oryinn Park, Lusk, Co.Dublin

Dunlaoghaire/Rathdown County Council

Cllr. Betty Coffey, 40 Northumberland Avenue, Dun-Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne, Silchester House, Silchester Road, Glenageary, Co. Dublin

Cllr. Olivia Mitchell, T.D. 18 Ballawley Court, Sandyford Road, Dublin 16

Kildare County Council

Cllr. Gerry Brady, Main St. Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Cllr. Michael McWey, Tower View Park, Kildare, Co. Kildare

Cllr. Jim Reilly, Ballinakill, Carbury, Co. Kildare

Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Tom Cullen, Deerpark, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow

Cllr. Kevin Ryan, Hilltop Nurseries, Carnew, Co. Wicklow

Cllr. Patrick Vance, Beachmount, Putland Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

**MEMBERS APPOINTED UNDER HEALTH
BOARD (ELECTION OF MEMBERS)
REGULATION 1972**

Registered Medical Practitioners

Dr. John Fennell, "Chesapeake", 2 Kendallstown Rise, Delgany, Co. Wicklow.
Dr. Siobhan Barry, Cluain Mhuire Service, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
Dr. Charles Smyth, Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum, Dublin 14.
Dr. K. Harkin, 15 Grattan Crescent, Inchicore, Dublin 8.
Dr. Ray Hawkins, Bray Medical Centre, Herbert Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Dr. Marie Laffoy, 20 Avoca Park, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Dr. Phillip O'Connell, 57 Craysforts Downs, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Dr. James Reilly, Fingal House, Lusk, Co. Dublin.

Registered Dentist

Dr. D. I. Keane, 130 Merrion Village, Dublin 4.

Registered General Nurse

Ms. Maria Hoban, 6 Ashgrove Crescent, Naas, Co. Kildare

Registered Psychiatric Nurse

Mr. Gerry Maguire, 1 The Strand, New Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin

Registered Pharmaceutical Chemist

Mrs. Bernadette Bonar, 9 Leopardstown Park, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

**MEMBERS APPOINTED BY
THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Cllr. Laurence Butler, 3 Whitehall Mews,
Westminister Road, Foxrock, Dublin 18.

Mr. P. Aspell, 61 College Park, Newbridge
Co. Kildare

Cllr. Dr. W.O'Connell, Vale Road, Arklow,
Co. Wicklow

Cllr. Catherine Quinn, 47 Beechwood Lawns,
Rathcoole, Co. Dublin

1998

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Chief Executive Officer

Mr. P.J. Fitzpatrick

Programme Manager, Acute Hospitals and Services for the Elderly Programme

Mr. James O'Brien

Programme Manager, Community Services

Mr. Michael Walsh

Programme Manager, Health Promotion Mental Health, Addiction & Social Development

Mr. Pat McLoughlin

Programme Manager

Services for Persons with Disabilities

Ms. Maureen Windle

Programme Manager, Children & Families

Ms. Brid Clarke

Finance Officer

Mr. Martin Gallagher

Personnel Officer

Ms. Mary Kelly

Technical Services Officer

Mr. J. Curran

Estate Management Officer

Mr. Phillip Doyle

Communications Director

Ms. Maureen Browne

Director of Public Health

Dr. B. O'Herlihy

Management Services Officer

Ms. Mary Crowe

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Acute Hospitals & Services for the Elderly Programme

Mr. Gerry Maguire, Chairperson

Cllr. Gerry Brady

Cllr. Roisín Shorthall, T.D.

Ms. Maria Hoban

Cllr. Pat Vance

Dr. Marie Laffoy

Cllr. Anne Devitt

Cllr. Jim Reilly

Cllr. Cyril Gallagher

Dr. John Fennell

HOSPITAL COMMITTEES

- + Hospital Management
- + Casemix
- + Drugs and Therapeutics
- + Infection Control
- + Health & Safety
- + Radiation Safety
- + Medical Nursing Liaison
- + Procedure Committee
- + Complaints Committee
- + Medical Ethics
- + Library Committee
- + Medical Records Committee
- + Hospital Liaison Committee
- + Freedom of Information

MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Hugh Gallagher, Chairperson
Mr. Gary Brow, Hon. Secretary

CONSULTANT STAFF

Dr. John Fennell, Consultant Physician
Dr. Morgan Crowe, Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine
Dr. Peter Quigley, Consultant Cardiologist
Dr. Denis Keating, Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine
Dr. Shaun O'Keeffe, Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine
Mr. Declan Magee, Consultant Surgeon
Mr. Stephen Sheehan, Consultant Surgeon
Mr. John Hyland, Consultant Surgeon
Mr. Gary Brow, Consultant Surgeon (locum)
Dr. Hugh Jordan, Consultant Radiologist
Dr. Dermot Cantwell, Consultant Radiologist (Locum)
Dr. Kinross Burke, Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Patrick Benson, Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Hugh Gallagher, Consultant Anaesthetist
Dr. Bernard Nally, Consultant Anaesthetist (Locum)
Dr. Niamh Nolan, Consultant Histopathologist
Mr. Kieran O'Rourke, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Mr. Eamonn Kelly, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Dr. Orla Shiel, Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist
Dr. Peter McParland, Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist
Dr. Grainne Flannelly, Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist

NURSE MANAGER

Ms. Mercedes Hurley

HOSPITAL MANAGER

Mr. John Hempenstall

1999

HOSPITAL SERVICES

St. Columcilles Hospital, Loughlinstown provides services as listed hereunder to its immediate catchment area of South County Dublin and East Wicklow.

- General Medical
- Acute Elderly Assessment/Rehabilitation
- Day Hospital for the Elderly
- General Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Gynaecology
- Dental Surgery
- Cardiology
- Urology
- Intensive Care/Coronary Care
- Endocrinology
- Anaesthesia
- Pain Therapy
- Day Procedures
- Accident & Emergency (24 hour service)
- Radiology
- Pathology
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Pharmacy
- Social Worker
- Dietician
- Chiropody
- ECG
- Out-patients (including Obstetrics/Gynaecology)

Peripheral Ante-Natal Clinics are serviced from the Hospital in conjunction with the National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, at Arklow, Wicklow, Bray and Greystones.

The Hospital also provides a comprehensive service to the General Practitioners in the catchment area including direct access to:

- Radiology
- Pathology
- Physiotherapy
- Diabetic
- Dietetic
- Endoscopy
- Routine & Stress ECG
- Day Hospital (Elderly)

REPORT OF HOSPITAL MANAGER

1998 was a very busy year for St.Columcilles Hospital with activity in all Hospital Services continuing at a high level. The increasing need for Hospital services put further pressure on all grades of staff within the Hospital. It is with their co-operation and exceptional effort that the Hospital was able to respond appropriately to the service needs of the catchment population.

The Hospital had a total of 7,025 admissions in 1998. The projected overall occupancy of the Hospital in 1998 is 93%. There were 1,815 day procedures carried out in 1998 which is an increase of 120 over the previous year. There were a total of 19,139 attendances at Out-Patient Clinics in 1998 with first time attendances showing an increase of 10 %.

The number of first time attendances at the Accident & Emergency Department was 23,580. There were 4,817 admissions through the Accident and Emergency Department which represents 70% of total admissions for the year.



Mr. John Hempenstall

Developments and Activities in 1998

Approval was obtained from Comhairle na n-Ospideal to proceed with the appointment of a Consultant Endocrinologist. This post is structured St.Columcilles Hospital (6 sessions) and St.Vincents Hospital (5 sessions). This post has been advertised and interviews arranged. The successful candidate will take up duty in early 1999.

Comhairle approval has been received for the appointment of two posts of Consultant Radiologist as follows:-

	<u>S.C.H.</u>	<u>S.V.H.</u>	<u>N.B.S.P</u>	<u>N.R.H.</u>
Post 1.	7	1	-	3
Post 2.	5	-	6	-

These two posts have been advertised for filling and the appointment of successful candidates will take place in early 1999.

Approval has been obtained from Comhairle na n-Ospideal to proceed with the appointment of an additional post of General Surgeon with a special interest in Hepatobiliary Surgery/Transplantation between St.Columcilles Hospital (5.5 sessions) and St.Vincents Hospital (5.5 sessions). This post has been advertised and the appointment will take place in early 1999.

Application for financial clearance has been made to the Department of Health and Children in respect of the appointment of a Consultant Urologist between St.Columcilles Hospital (7 sessions) and St.Vincents Hospital (4 sessions).

Application for financial clearance has been made to the Department of Health and Children in respect of the appointment of a Consultant Cardiologist between St.Columcilles Hospital (8 sessions) and St.Vincents Hospital (3 sessions).

Application for financial clearance has been submitted to the Department of Health and Children in respect of a post of Consultant E.N.T. Surgeon between St.Columcilles Hospital (7 sessions) and the Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital (4 sessions).

Financial Clearance has been sought from the Department of Health and Children in respect of the appointment of a Consultant Anaesthetist between St.Columcilles Hospital (8 sessions) and St.Vincents Hospital (3 sessions).

In January 1998, the new Superintendant Physiotherapist took up duty at St.Columcilles Hospital.

A new Out-Patient Sister was appointed in March 1998 and a new Ward Sister for St.Annes Medical Ward took up duty in July 1998.

A sum of £100,000 was included in the Department of Health and Children letter of determination for 1998 for the development of services at the Hospital. This funding has been used to develop, Cardiology services, Urology services and Endocrinology services.

Equipment Replacement Programme

A special allocation of £150,000 was included in the Boards letter of determination for 1998 for the purchase of equipment. Equipment purchased with this funding in 1998 included:-

- X-Ray Daylight Processor
- Blood Gas Analyser Machine
- Anaesthetic Machines - Theatre
- Holter Stress Monitor System
- Endoscopy Equipment
- Scope Washer/Disinfecter

A planned programme of equipment replacement which includes an annual review of all medical equipment is ongoing at the Hospital to ensure that all equipment is brought up to modern standards to facilitate quality patient care.

Structural Improvements

During the course of 1998 the following improvements were completed at St.Columcilles Hospital:-

- Extension and upgrading of the Radiology Department to accommodate the C.T. Scanning Service.
- Replacement of old wooden windows in St. Annes Ward
- Painting, decoration, upgrading of Bathroom/Toilet facilities in St. Annes Ward.
- New Cableing installed throughout the Hospital to accommodate new Computer Networking System and new telephone system.

In 1998, a revised submission was made to the Department of Health and Children regarding the necessary funding, to facilitate the upgrading of the mechanical services at the Hospital, the completion of work on the electrical services and the resultant necessary decoration. This submission is at present being considered by the Department.

Hospital Development

A special capital grant of £475,000 was received from the Department of Health and Children for the development of a C.T. Scanning service at the Hospital. The estimated balance of £200,000 will be provided from monies raised by the Friends of St.Columcilles Hospital.

The Order for the supply and installation of the C.T. Scanner has been placed.

The construction of the extension to the existing Radiology Department to accommodate the new C.T. Scanner has commenced. The target date for completion is the end of December 1998.

The full development includes building of new accommodation and the recruitment of additional staff. These much needed facilities will greatly enhance our diagnostic capabilities and should open the way for an improved service to our catchment area General Practitioners.

The Board Sub-Committee set up to review the future role and development potential of the Hospital continue to meet. In May 1998, a detailed Planning Brief and Schedules of Accommodation for the proposed future development of the Hospital was completed by a Working Group set up within the Hospital and costings obtained.

The draft Planning Brief was endorsed by the Sub-Committee and the Board at its July meeting approved the recommendation of the Programme Committee that the Draft Planning Brief for the proposed future development of the Hospital be submitted to the Department of Health and Children for consideration.

Service Developments

Meetings are ongoing with the authorities of St.Vincent's Hospital and St.Michael's Hospital in the context of the development of hospital services in Dublin South East/East Wicklow. Central departments of Surgery, Medicine, Pathology and Radiology have been established in which St.Columcille's Hospital fully participates.

In 1999, further specialities such as Ophthalmology, Dermatology and Rheumatology will be developed at the Hospital, particularly on an out-patient basis.

The development of paediatric services and the appointment of an Accident and Emergency Consultant at St.Columcille's Hospital are being examined within South East Dublin.

These developments in addition to the establishment of new services in the Hospital will ensure that a comprehensive range of acute medical services is available to the Hospital catchment area for the future.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to staff at all levels within the Hospital for their commitment and dedication throughout the year in the interest of patient care. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Hospital Management Committee and all the other Committees in the Hospital for their help and support throughout the year.



**John Hempenstall,
Hospital Manager.**

3rd December 1998

IN-PATIENT ACTIVITY STATISTICS

January - December 1998 (Projected)

Ward	Bed Complement	Available Bed Days	Occupied Bed Days	Total Admissions	% Bed Occupancy	Average Length of stay (Days)
Medical	37	10,445	9,931	2,574	95.07%	7.46
Surgical	54	19,710	17,519	3,721	88.88%	6.13
I.C.U./C.C.U.	6	1,825	1,780	523	97.53%	3.34
Orthopaedics	23	8,395	7,849	299	93.49%	17.49
Acute Assessment Elderly	30	10,950	10,654	431	97.29%	20.45
Total	150	51,325	47,733	7,025		

STATISTICAL REVIEW

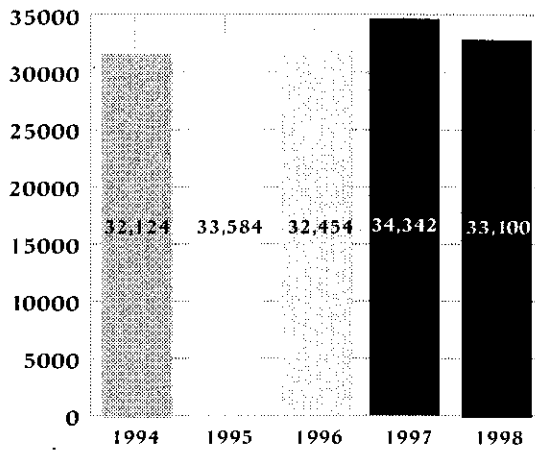
IN-PATIENT ADMISSIONS

Specialty	1998 (Projected)	1998 (Oct)	1997
Medical	2,574	2,153	2,698
Surgical	3,721	3,109	3,765
I.C.U./C.C.U.	523	444	500
Acute Assessment Elderly	431	366	463
Orthopaedics	299	262	336

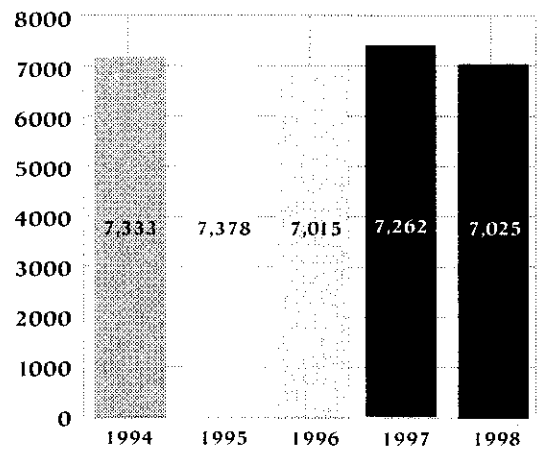
OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Specialty	1998 (Projected)	1998 (Oct)	1997
Medical	2,953	2,461	2,405
Surgical	4,578	3,815	3,938
Elderly	588	490	674
Orthopaedics	6,288	5,240	6,898
Obstetrics/Gynae	4,516	3,764	3,781
Geriatric day Hospital	1,768	1,440	1,788
Pain Relief	216	173	222

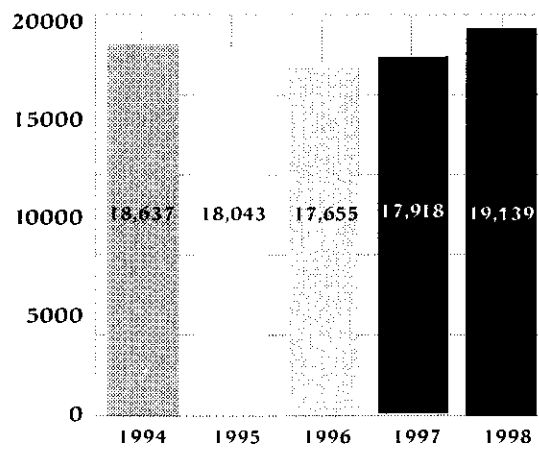
A&E Attendances



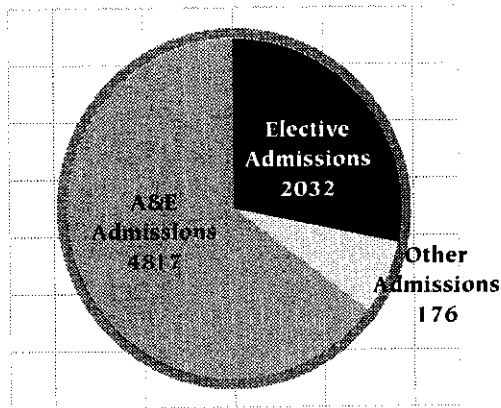
In-patient Admissions



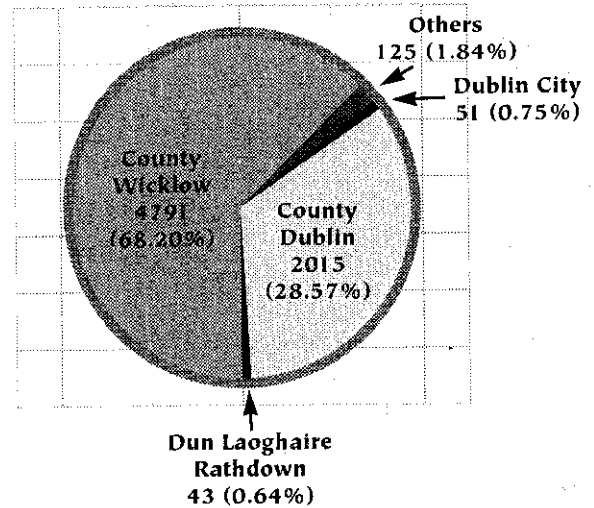
Out-patient Attendances



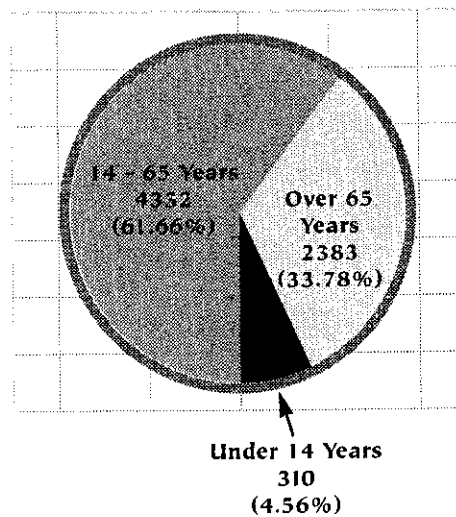
Admissions by Source 1998



Geographical Distribution 1998



Age Analysis 1998



Annual

OTHER HOSPITAL SERVICES

	1998 (Projected)	1998 (Oct)	1997
Diagnostic Services			
Radiology	37,878	31,565	38,775
Physiotherapy	41,079	34,233	35,411
Occupational Therapy	14,162	11,802	11,743
Speech Therapy	723	562	717
Dietetics	2,609	2,391	2,562
Day Services			
Day Surgery Procedures	1,815	1,512	1,695
Geriatric Day Hospital	1,797	1,490	1,778
Endoscopy Unit	400	268	337
Pathology Department			
Microbiology	15,080	12,450	13,119
Blood Transfusion	2,763	2,313	2,570
Bio Chemistry	48,379	40,129	42,939
Histology/Cytology	1,757	1,477	1,605
Haematology	52,961	43,721	47,809
A&E Department			
Number of new patients (1st Attendance)	23,580	20,103	23,682
Number of Return Visits	9,303	7,753	9,418
Number of Admissions	4,817	4,097	4,864
Total Attendance	32,883	27,856	33,100
R.T.A. Admissions	108	90	100
Theatre			
Major Operations	760	634	690
Minor Operations	1,814	1,512	1,742
Dental Operations	213	134	200

FINANCIAL OUT-TURNS

Out-Turn 1997

Pay	8,191,000
Non-Pay	3,304,000
Total Gross	11,495,000
Income	813,592
Nett Expenditure	10,681,408

Projected Out-Turn 1998

Pay	8,468,000
Non-Pay	3,784,000
Total Gross	12,252,000
Income	980,000
Nett Expenditure	11,272,000

NURSING REPORT

The nursing staff must be thanked for their hard work and the delivery of a high quality of nursing care to the patients of St.Columcilles Hospital throughout 1998. This has been endorsed by the large number of compliments received throughout the year from very satisfied patients.

Despite the many changes in the Health Services the nurses continue to be well motivated and committed to education and self-development, applying their new knowledge and skills into the healthcare for individuals.

During 1998, Nurses have completed the following courses:

- 2 Diploma in Nursing Studies
- 1 First line management
- 1 Diploma in Industrial Relations

Study Days funded by the nursing research and education department continue to play a major part of nurse education. In-service training was continued throughout the year at St.Columcilles in

- CPR
- I.V. Policy
- Manual Handling
- Infection Control

The Nursing Development Unit continues as an important model for stimulating improvement in nursing practice and redefining standards of care. Working to energise nurses to achieve excellence. The N.D.U. are currently preparing for accreditation by U.C.D. in February 1999.

St.Columcilles Hospital have been successful in their application as an associate School of Nursing with Adelaide/Meath Hospitals incorporating the National Children's Hospital. Updating of policies and procedures have begun in preparation for the arrival of the students in March 1999.

Ms. Leon Byron has been appointed as Sister in the Out-patients Department. Ms. Samantha Byrne has been appointed as Ward Sister in St.Annes Ward.

I would like to thank staff and colleagues for their support throughout the year.



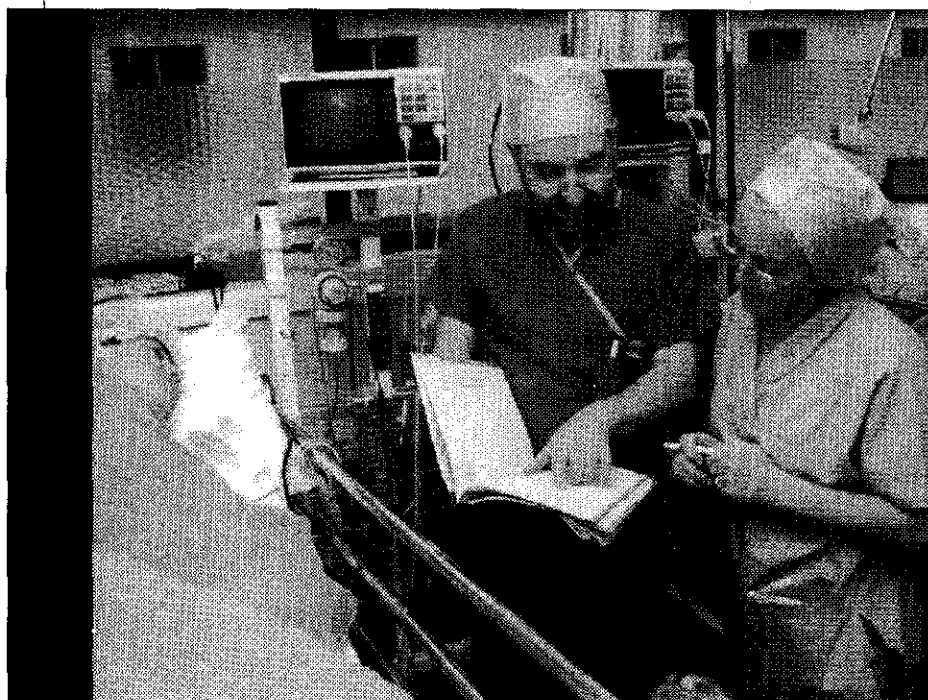
Ms. Mercedes Hurley, Matron



DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Department of Surgery

The Department of Surgery continued to be very busy during 1998 with admissions and out-patient attendances on a par with 1997. The Department of Surgery under the direction of Mr. Declan Magee and Mr. Stephen Sheehan, Consultant Surgeons provides a comprehensive general surgical service resulting from out-patient, general practitioner and casualty department referrals. The Unit consists of 54 beds and a full range of general surgical conditions is managed. The development of day case surgery continued during 1998 with an increasing number of minor surgical and investigative procedures being carried out on a day case basis.



Four Out-patient Clinics are held weekly at the Hospital and an Out-patient Clinic is held fortnightly at Arklow Health Centre at which Mr. Declan Magee attends.

The projected number of admissions for 1998 is 3,721, which is on a par with 1997. New attendances at Surgical Out-patient Clinics is 1650 an increase of 429 on 1997. The percentage bed occupancy in the Department of Surgery in 1998 was 88.88% and the average length of stay for 1998 was 6.13 days.

The Board has received approval from Comhairle na n-Ospideal for a third post of Consultant Surgeon with an interest in Hepatobiliary Surgery/Transplantation. The post is structured St. Columcilles Hospital - 5.5 sessions and St. Vincents Hospital - 5.5 sessions. This post has been advertised and the appointment will take place in early 1999.

The Hospital continues to participate in the joint Department of Surgery for South East Dublin/East Wicklow. The Hospital Manager and Director of Surgery are members of the Steering Committee which was established to oversee in consultation with the Co-Ordinator, the functioning of the joint Department.

In 1998, agreement was reached within the South East Dublin Department of Surgery to the creation of a post of Consultant Urologist. This post is structured St. Columcilles Hospital (7 sessions) and St. Vincents Hospital (4 sessions). Application for financial clearance in respect of this post has been made to the Department of Health and Children and a decision is awaited.

Agreement has also been reached within the South East Dublin Department of Surgery to the creation of a post of Consultant E.N.T. Surgeon. This post is structured St. Columcilles Hospital (7 sessions) and Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital (4 sessions). Application for financial clearance in respect of this post has been submitted to the Department of Health and Children and a decision is awaited.

Discussions are ongoing with regard to the appointment of an Accident and Emergency Consultant at St. Columcilles Hospital and the development of Ophthalmology services.

Following a formal arrangement with University College Dublin Medical School undergraduate teaching is now conducted at the Hospital with attachment of medical students to the surgical teams. The surgical unit is also recognised by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland for pre-FRCSI training. Discussions are taking place for the provision of higher surgical training posts. In November, a symposium was held on the management of venous ulcers for nursing staff and district nurses.

Accident & Emergency

The Accident & Emergency Service continued to be very busy during 1998 with new attendances on a par with the previous year. There were 23,580 new patients attended for treatment during the year with a further 9,303 return attendances.

The projected number of admissions to the Hospital via the Accident & Emergency Department which is provided on a 24 hour, 7 day week basis as a percentage of overall Hospital admissions in 1998 is 4,817 or 70%. An indication of the important role that the A&E Department plays in the overall context of the Hospital is reflected in the high percentage of overall Hospital admissions coming in via the A&E Department.

In 1998, discussions commenced within the Central Departments of Surgery and Medicine for South East Dublin/East Wicklow with regard to the appointment of an Accident and Emergency Consultant for St.Columcilles Hospital. It is hoped to progress the matter further in 1999.

The Major Accident Plan for the Hospital was activated in response to a very bad Road Traffic Accident which happened north of Arklow on 14th September 1998.

Theatre Department

There were an estimated 2,787 operations carried out in the Theatre Department in 1998 which provides a 24 hour service, 7 days per week, Elective and Emergency Service.

The appointment of the second Consultant Surgeon with an interest in Vascular Surgery has increased the number of procedures in Theatre.

Nursing activities in Theatre include the following:-

Post-graduate anaesthetic nursing link with St.Vincents Hospital.

Continuation of Dental Nurses Teaching Programme with the Dublin Dental Hospital.

Courses attended by Nursing personnel were as follows:-

- Vascular Study Day
- Irish Association Sterile Supplies Managers
- National Association Theatre Nurses Conference
- European Meeting on Sterile Supplies

Further development within the Endoscopy area of Theatre included an additional Video Gastroscope and a Video Colonoscope.

Anaesthetic purchases included a flexible intubating Fibrescope which enables accurate tracheal intubation and evaluation of the upper airway.

Two new anaesthetic machines and replacement patient monitors were also purchased for the department in 1998.

These purchases enable the Department to provide a modern updated service to the patients.

Ms. Barbara Smyth, Staff Nurse, Theatre Department prepared and presented a paper "Care of Instruments used in Laparoscopic Surgery" at the Annual Conference of the Irish Association of Sterile Services Managers held in November 1998.

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

The Orthopaedic Service provided at St. Columcilles Hospital under the direction of Mr. Kieran O'Rourke, and Mr. Eamon Kelly, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons, includes Out-patient Clinics, operating sessions, in-patient care and ward consultations.

The projected number of patients seen at the Out-patient Clinics during 1998 is 6,288 and of these 2,315 are first attendances. The number of in-patients admitted for treatment by the Orthopaedic Team during 1998 was 299 and a total of 250 operative procedures were performed on these patients. In addition to the above many elective procedures on patients seen in the Out-patients were performed in Cappagh Orthopaedic Hospital.

Discussions are at present taking place within the South East Dublin Department of Surgery on the structuring of an additional post of Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon in Dublin South East with additional sessions to St. Columcilles Hospital. A review of the Orthopaedic Services in the area has been requested to have more acute orthopaedic work carried out at St. Columcilles Hospital.

Obstetrics/Gynaecology

The Obstetric/Gynaecology service at St. Columcilles Hospital is provided by Dr. Orla Shiel and Dr. Peter McParland, Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologists.

Dr. Shiel holds one ante-natal clinic and one gynaecology clinic at the Hospital each week. In addition she holds one ante-natal clinic at Wicklow Health Centre each week. Dr. McParland holds a Gynaecology Clinic at St. Columcilles Hospital and also attends the ante-natal clinics in Bray and Arklow Health Centres each week. A weekly ante-natal clinic is also held in Greystones Health Centre with Dr. Grainne Flannelly in attendance. The total attendances at Out-patient Clinics for 1998 is 4,516 (See Appendix 2 for further breakdown of these figures).

The obstetric service includes an Ultrasound session held at St. Columcilles Hospital each week. A mobile Ultrasound machine is also available for use in the peripheral ante-natal clinics which saves the patients from having to travel to the Hospital for this service.

An important aspect of the obstetric service is the development of the Ante-Natal Education Programme for patients which now operates in St. Columcilles Hospital and Wicklow Health Centre. This is organised each week by the local nursing midwives and physiotherapists and is fully availed of by the patients.

At present a strategy document for the future provision of Gynaecology services in South East Dublin/East Wicklow is being considered by the Steering Committee of the South East Dublin Department of Surgery. It is envisaged that in the future an increased level of gynaecological procedures will be carried out at St. Columcilles Hospital.

Out-Patients Department

The projected activity in the Out-patient Department in 1998 is 19,139 attendances, an increase of 1,221 on 1997 figures.

Clinics held at the Hospital are as follows:

2	Medical	(Weekly)
1	Elderly	(Weekly)
1	Obst./Gynae	(Weekly)
2	Diabetic	(Monthly)
1	Warfarin	(Weekly)
4	Surgical	(Weekly)
2	Orthopaedic	(Weekly)
1	Dietetic	(Weekly)
1	Asthma	(Monthly)
2	Pain Relief	(Weekly)
1	Leg Ulcer	(Weekly)
1	Respiratory	(Weekly)
1	Cardiology	(Weekly)
1	Urology	(Weekly)

In addition to the above a Surgical Clinic is held fortnightly in Arklow and Ante-natal clinics are held weekly in Arklow, Bray, Wicklow and Greystones. Further details of Out-patient Clinics are contained in Appendix 1.

A Leg Ulcer Clinic commenced in October 1998 under the direction of Mr. Stephen Sheehan, Consultant Surgeon with an interest in vascular surgery.

A Consultant led Cardiology Clinic commenced in January 1998 at St.Columcilles Hospital with the co-operation of St.Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park. The Consultant Cardiologist in attendance is Dr. Peter Quigley.

A respiratory medical Out-patient Clinic commenced in October 1998. This is a Consultant led clinic provided by Dr. Geoff Chadwick.

A Urology Clinic commenced in October 1998 provided by Dr. David Quinlan, Consultant Urologist.

These additional Clinics have led to a more comprehensive out-patient service being provided at the Hospital.

In 1998, Ms. Leon Byron took up duty as Out-patient Sister in the Department.

Department of Medicine

The Department of Medicine under the direction of Dr. John Fennell provides a comprehensive in-patient service for patients with general medical problems and also in specialised areas such as diabetes, asthma and acute cardiac conditions. An out-patient service is also provided in general medicine with specialised clinics in diabetes mellitus, asthma, hypercholesterolaemia and cardiology.

Projected admissions for 1998 is 2,574. Bed occupancy during the year was averaging 95%. As in previous years there is a high demand for medical beds which has resulted in many medical emergencies being admitted to surgical beds.

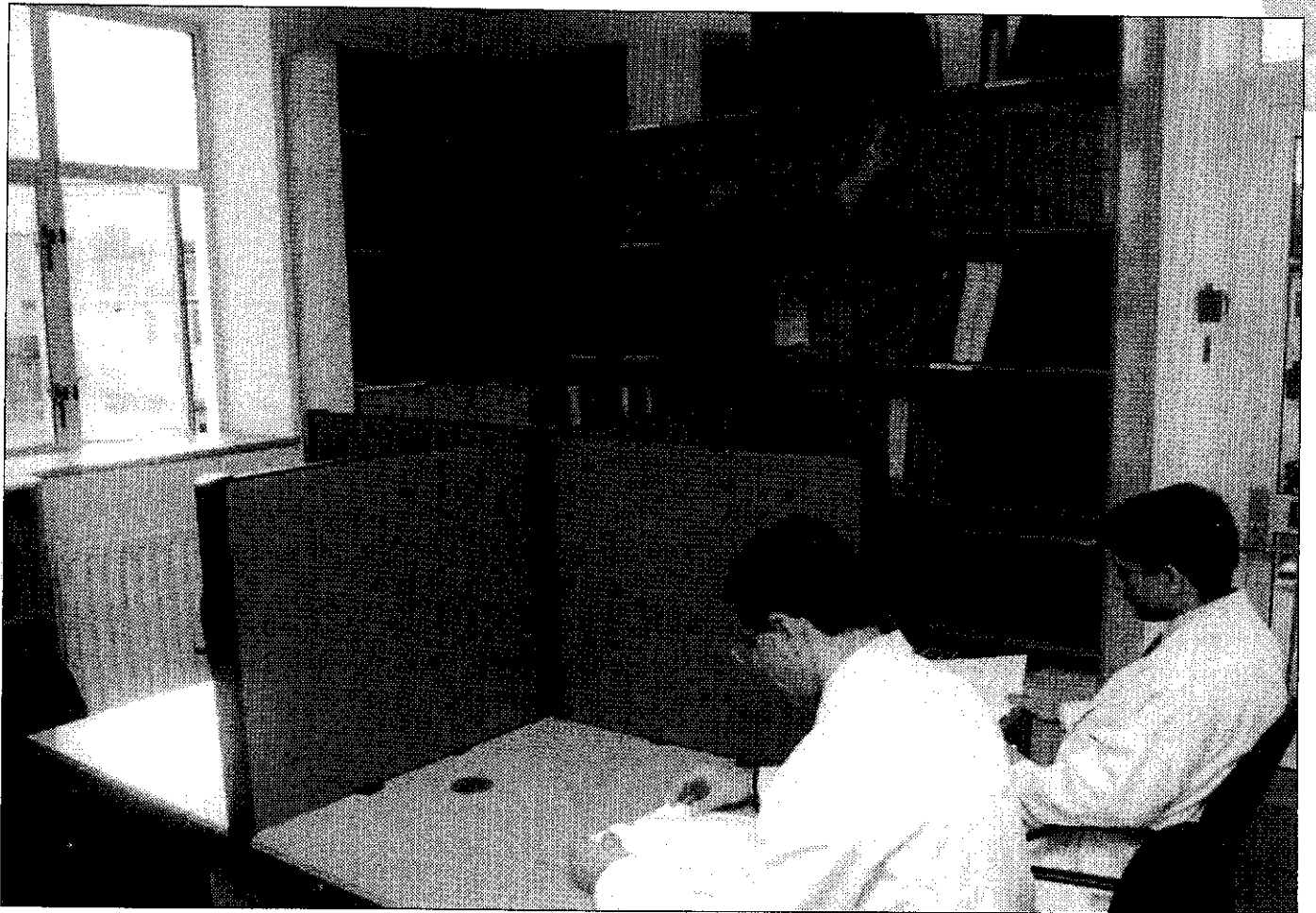
Out-patient attendances for the year is 2,953 an increase of 12% on 1997. Day procedures are carried out twice weekly including gastroscopy, colonoscopy and bronchoscopy. In 1998, the total number of endoscopies carried out in the Department of Medicine was 400.

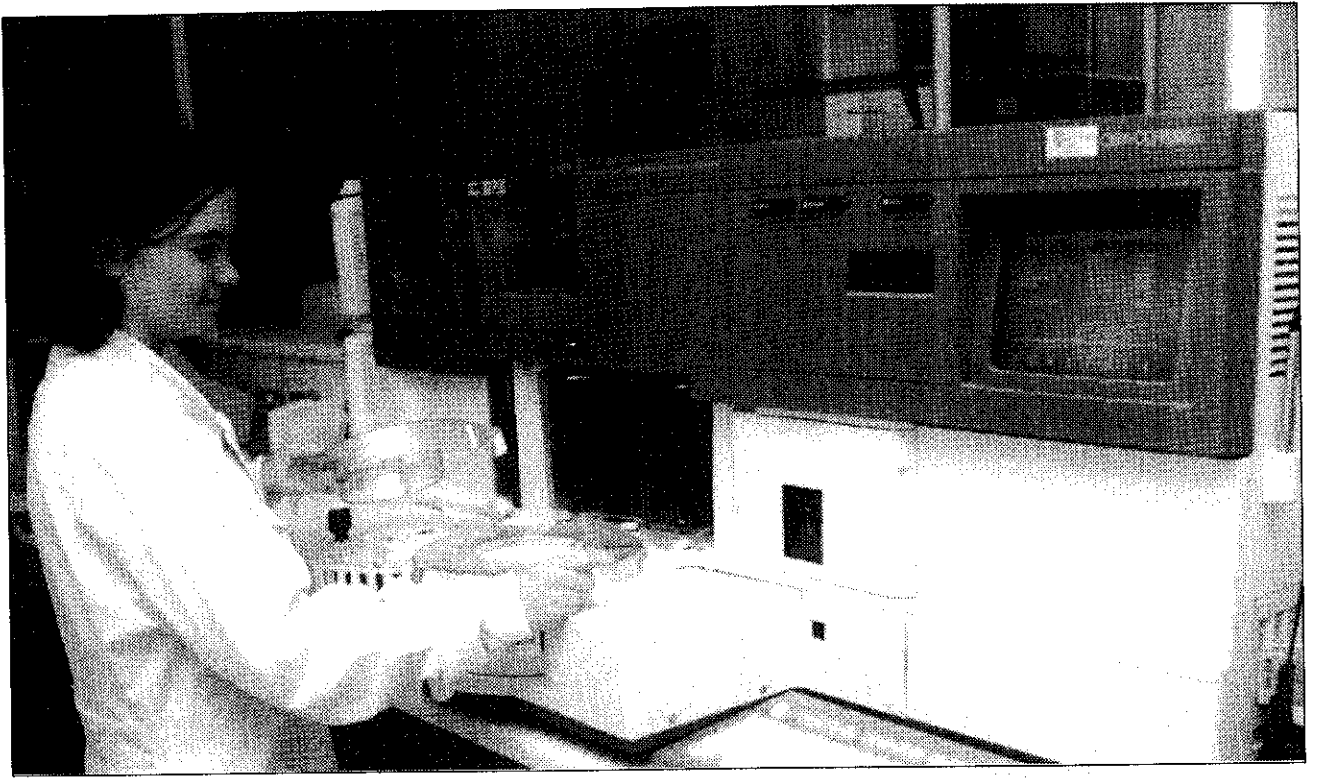
A regular cardiopulmonary resuscitation course has been introduced through the nursing staff in the Intensive Care/Coronary Care Unit. Regular C.P.R. Courses are now carried out to ensure ongoing expertise in cardiopulmonary resuscitation among the medical and nursing staff.

Conferences and educational sessions continue to be held in the department of medicine on a weekly basis as follows:-

- Video Session
- Journal Club
- X-Ray Conference
- Multi-Disciplinary Conference
- Medical Conference

There is also a monthly general practitioner conference held between the months of September and April. This is attended both by general practitioners, hospital doctors, nurses and other para-medical staff. These meetings have been very well attended and considered to be a success. A recent development has been the holding of joint conferences with St.Michaels Hospital for general practitioners.





Annual

ST. COLUMCILLES HOSPITAL

Report

1998



In 1998, approval was obtained from Comhairle na n-Ospideal to proceed with the appointment of a Consultant Endocrinologist. This post is structured St.Columcilles Hospital (6 sessions) and St.Vincent's Hospital (5 sessions). This post has been advertised and interviews arranged. The successful candidate will take up duty in 1999.

A Consultant provided out-patient Cardiology Service under the direction of Dr.Peter Quigley has been provided at St.Columcilles Hospital with effect from 1st January 1998 with the co-operation of St.Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park.

Agreement has been reached within the South East Dublin Department of Medicine to the structuring of a post of Consultant Cardiologist, St.Columcilles Hospital(8 sessions) and St.Vincent's Hospital (3 sessions). Financial clearance has been sought from the Department of Health and Children in respect of this post and it is expected that the appointment will take place in 1999.

The development of a diabetic day unit is being investigated which will be staffed by our diabetes nurse specialist. This will allow diabetic patients to attend on a regular basis outside of the out-patient clinic area which is extremely busy. This new development will facilitate the education of new diabetic patients by the diabetes nurse specialist in more relaxed surroundings.

The Department has recently received new exercise stress equipment and also holter monitoring equipment. This is state of the art equipment which will lead to both an improvement in the quality of cardiac investigations within the Hospital and also allow holter monitoring tests to be analysed on site.

The Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland has been held at St.Columcilles Hospital on three occasions during 1998. The Director of these examinations at RCPI, has praised the excellent organisation of the examinations at St.Columcilles Hospital.

Dr. Fennell, Consultant Physician continues in his role as National Specialty Director for training in General (Internal) Medicine on behalf of the Irish Committee for higher Medical Training (ICHMT). Dr. Fennell is also UEMS representative of the RCPI in GIM. He was also elected to the Council of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland recently.



Discussions are also ongoing within the Department of Medicine for South East Dublin in relation to the structuring of joint Consultant posts in the specialities of Rheumatology, Neurology and general internal medicine.

Department of Medicine for the Elderly

In 1998, there were 431 in-patient admissions and 1,768 Day Hospital attendances to the Department at St. Columcilles Hospital. In addition the Department also carried out over 200 consultations on patients from other wards in the Hospital including general medicine, general surgery and orthopaedic surgery. There is a Consultant based out-patient clinic held weekly at the Hospital and attendances for 1998 were 588.

The Department of Medicine for the Elderly under the direction of Dr. Morgan Crowe, Consultant Geriatrician and Dr. Shaun O'Keeffe, Consultant Geriatrician comprises of a 30 bed in-patient facility for the acute assessment and rehabilitation of elderly patients. A Day Hospital facility attached to the Department allows for the continuing treatment and rehabilitation of approximately 10 to 15 patients per day on an out-patient basis. The Day Hospital offers a valuable assessment and rehabilitation service to patients who would otherwise require admission.

Secondary rehabilitation is provided at St. Colmans Hospital, Rathdrum and District Hospital Wicklow for Wicklow patients.

Access is available to secondary rehabilitation facilities in the Royal Hospital Donnybrook for patients from South East Dublin. The Department also has access to an intermittent respite care facility which has been developed at Leopardstown Park Hospital where patients are admitted for three days every fortnight.

Patients are admitted to the acute assessment unit via the A&E, Day Hospital or following transfer from other wards in the Hospital. The Day Hospital provides facilities for multi-disciplinary assessment (medical, nursing, occupational therapy and social worker) of new patients referred by their General Practitioners and ongoing reviews and rehabilitation of day patients. The multi-disciplinary team is very involved in rehabilitation of in-patients in the Unit and progress is reviewed at weekly case conferences

In 1998, the Department has been functioning with an average percentage bed occupancy of 97%. Over 70% of patients are successfully rehabilitated to a degree that enables them to be discharged home with the support of the Community Care



Services. The remaining patients are discharged to areas of care appropriate to their degree of complexity.

In 1998, Financial Clearance was obtained from the Department of Health and Children to proceed with the appointment of a replacement Consultant Geriatrician for the Dublin South East/East Wicklow catchment area to replace Dr. Denis Keating who is retiring. The approval of Comhairle na n-Ospideal has now been sought in respect of this post.

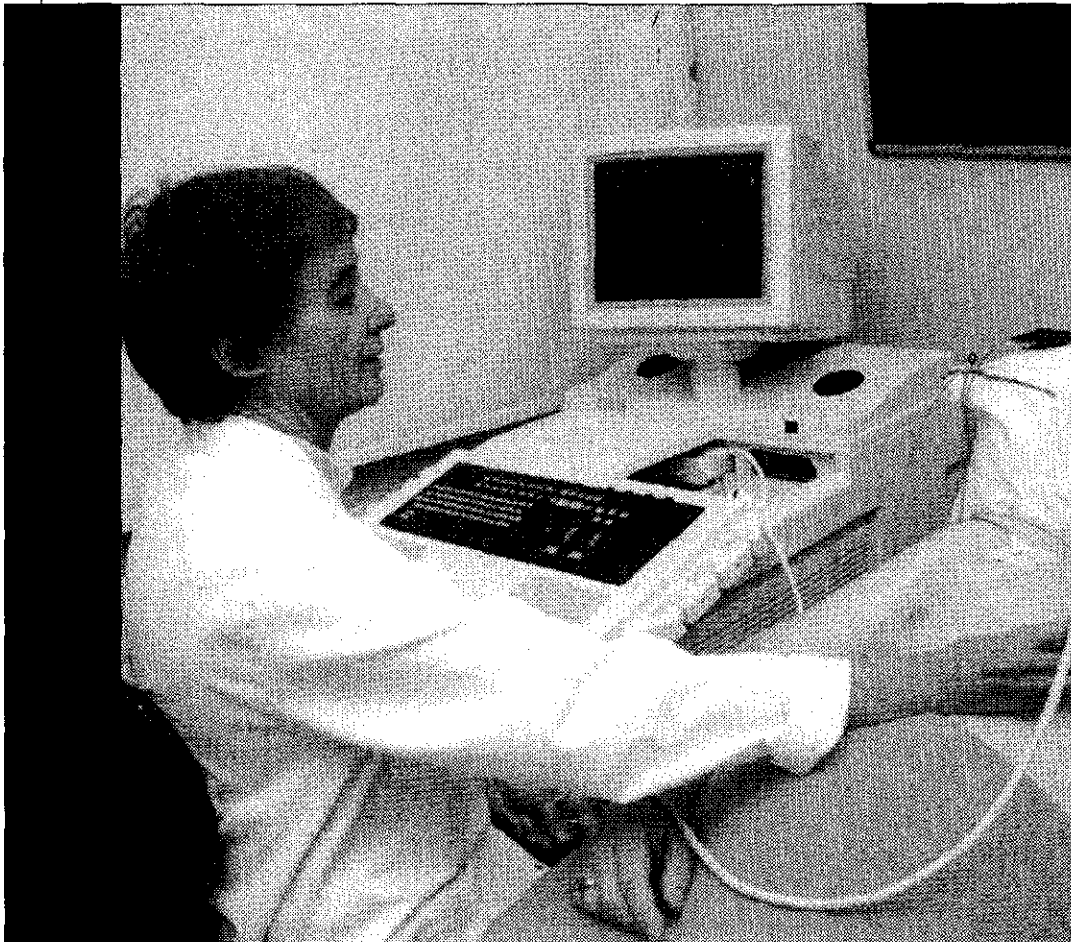
Despite the heavy service commitments, continuing medical education and research essential to audit progress and identify areas for potential improvement is ongoing.

A fortnightly clinical meeting is held in conjunction with other departmental meetings at which staff are encouraged to attend.

From a research point of view the Department has a special interest in Stroke. In conjunction with the Health Information Service of the Eastern Health Board, the first part of the Survey on Stroke in South East Dublin, East Wicklow was concluded which is the first of its kind in Ireland. The results of this were recently presented at the annual meeting of the Irish Gerontological Society. It documented the high mortality and need for institutional care in stroke patients admitted to Hospitals in this area. It will now be possible to evaluate the effect of new measures on indices of stroke outcome, which it is planned to introduce in the near future. Other research projects undertaken by nursing staff as part of the Nursing Development Unit have included subjects such as confusion in the

elderly and informing patients about diagnoses such as cancer. Results of both of these surveys were presented by nursing members of the Unit at the Irish Gerontological Society. Also a paper entitled - Use of cotsides in an Irish Hospital - based on a study carried out in St.Columcilles Hospital was recently published in the Irish Medical Journal (I.M.J., 1998: 134 - 135).

This year we lost the services of our Ward Sister, Imelda Noone who has taken up a post of Assistant Matron in the Eye and Ear Hospital and Staff Nurse Brid Meehan who is undertaking the Public Health Nursing Course. Both made an invaluable contribution to patient care and development of services for the elderly in the Hospital and we wish them well in their future career. We are particularly fortunate in having Staff Nurse Mary Connolly to take over responsibility for the Day Hospital while the Sister's post in St.Josephs Ward has been advertised for filling in a permanent capacity.



DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY

There was again a high level of activity in the X-Ray Department of St. Columcilles Hospital throughout the year 1998 with over 38,000 x-ray examinations carried out. A breakdown of the numbers and types of x-rays carried out in 1998 is included in Appendix 3.

General Practitioners

An extremely efficient Radiology service is provided to the General Practitioners in the hospitals catchment area of South East Dublin/East Wicklow. Urgent referrals are seen immediately and an appointment system is in operation for routine and non urgent patient referrals.

Out-patient Clinics

The x-ray department provides a service for the following Out-patient Clinics, Orthopaedic, Geriatric, General Medical, General Surgical and Obstetric/Gynaecological and Pain Relief.

A&E Department

A 24 hour service on a 7 day week basis is provided by the X-Ray Department to patients referred from the A&E Department.

In-patients

There is an X-Ray service provided within the Hospital to the following Departments: Medicine for the Elderly, General Medicine, General Surgery, I.C.U./C.C.U., Orthopaedic Wards and Operating Theatre.

There are two X-Ray Rooms in the Radiology Department.

Room 1: contains a Siemens Fluorospot Digital Fluor-Radiography Machine which was installed in 1993. General X-Rays and specialised procedures such as Barium Meals, Barium Enemas, I.V.P.'s, Venograms, Sialograms and Biopsies are carried out in this room.

Room 2: The main bulk of general Radiography is performed in this room. This room contains a Picker(G.E.C. Medical Roentgen 301) 300 M.A. single phase unit, which was installed in 1978. This equipment has proven very satisfactory despite its age and its workload. A new Generator, Control Panel and an Erect Buckly Diaphragm has been installed for the above equipment. This equipment in addition to the modern and technologically advanced equipment in Room 1 facilitates the provision of radiology services in the Hospital.

In addition to the equipment in both X-Ray Rooms there are two portable X-Ray Machines and an Image Intensifier (C Arm).

The Siemens Mobilex which was purchased in 1990 is located in the Theatre.

The Siemens Mobilett Plus, which was purchased in March 1995, is located in the main Hospital. This machine is used for I.C.U./C.C.U. Ward areas and A&E Department. The equipment has proven to be extremely satisfactory due to its versatility and mobility.

The Image Intensifier Screening Unit is located in Theatre to assist in examinations and certain procedures performed by the Orthopaedic and General Surgery Consultants.

There are two Ultrasound machines. One is located in the X-Ray Department for the General and Specialised work. The other located in O.P.D. Department for use by the Obstetric/Gynaecology Department. An Ultrasound Clinic for Obstetric patients is held every Monday with a Radiographer and Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist in attendance.

In 1998, approval was obtained from Comhairle na n-Ospideal to proceed with the appointment of two posts of Consultant Radiologist. The Consultant staff complement for the Department of Radiology at St. Columcilles Hospital is now as follows:-

	<u>S.C.H.</u>	<u>S.V.H.</u>	<u>N.R.H.</u>	<u>N.B.S.P.</u>
Post 1	11	-	-	-
Post 2	7	1	3	-
Post 3	5	-	-	6

These two posts have been advertised for filling and the appointment of successful candidates will take place in early 1999.

A special allocation of £0.475m has been received from the Department of Health and Children for the development of a C.T. Scanning Service at the Hospital. The estimated balance of £0.200m will be provided from monies raised by the Friends of St. Columcilles Hospital. The full development includes building of new accommodation and the recruitment of additional staff. These much needed facilities will greatly enhance our diagnostic capabilities and should open the way for an improved service to our catchment area General Practitioners.

Department of Anaesthesia

In 1998, St.Columcilles Hospital was successful in retaining its recognition for N.C.H.D. training by the Faculty of Anaesthetists and rotational N.C.H.D. posts are now established between St.Columcilles Hospital/St.Vincents Hospital. This is not only of benefit to N.C.H.D. staff but has also had a beneficial effect for St.Columcilles Hospital in terms of the number and calibre of applicants applying for Anaesthetic N.C.H.D. posts.

The resuscitation of trauma victims/head injuries and transport of these patients to other centres (especially Beaumont Hospital) accounts for significant part of the work load outside of the normal working hours. As a result of this, lectures are ongoing on this topic to Anaesthetic, Medical and Surgical N.C.H.D. staff and A&E Nurses throughout the year.

New Anaesthetic machines purchased during the year has proved satisfactory and arrangements are now in hand for the purchase of a Modern Ventilator. Additional monitoring equipment will be required in the near future for the theatres and consideration is also been given to replacing monitors in the recovery room and minor theatre which are nearing the end of their natural life span. The purchase of additional infusion pumps and invasive monitoring equipment in the Intensive Care Unit has assisted the medical and nursing staff in the Management of critically ill patients.

In 1998, the development of the Acute Pain Service under the direction of Dr. Kinross Burke and Dr. Hugh Gallagher continued to expand with the provision of Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA) systems. Chronic pain services are held weekly and an increasing number of pain controlling procedures being performed in the operating theatres.

The Hospital has full in-house Anaesthetic cover in the Hospital. This has led to an improved standard of care for patients at night and at weekends and ensures that appropriate trained personnel are in attendance at Cardiac Arrests throughout the Hospital and available to deal with trauma cases in the Accident and Emergency Department.

Financial Clearance has been sought from the Department of Health and Children in respect of a joint post of Consultant Anaesthetist, St.Columcilles Hospital - 8 sessions and St.Vincents Hospital - 3 sessions. This post will replace the present locum arrangements that exist in the Hospital.

The workload of the Department of Anaesthesia was similar to 1997. Anaesthesia is provided for procedures in Theatre, Intensive Care Unit, Pain Management and the resuscitation of trauma victims/head injuries and the transport of these patients to other Hospitals. The projected number of admissions to the Intensive Care Unit for 1998 is 523. The acute pain service continued to expand during 1998 with 216 patients being treated for pain control.

Physiotherapy Department

There continues to be a high input of physiotherapy services to the departments of general medicine, general surgery, care of the elderly, orthopaedics, obstetrics/gynaecology, intensive care/coronary care and out-patients. The number of treatments in the Physiotherapy Department during 1998 will be estimated at 41,079 an increase of 14% over the previous year.

The department still remains the only hospital Physiotherapy Department in South East Dublin who takes direct G.P. referrals and as a result there remains a very high demand on this service.

The department saw the appointment of a new Superintendent, Ms. Maura Quigley and a new Senior Physiotherapist Ms. Shirley McMichael both trained at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland and both have extensive training in manual therapy techniques which has proved a great asset to the out-patient department.

Continuing education remains a large priority for the staff, with Erika Ring having completed her Msc in sports medicine and Maura Quigley entering her 2nd year of an Msc in Manual Therapy.

Shirley McMichael has begun her management training in Dr.Steevens Hospital. Other members of the staff have completed a Langer Orthotics Course, McKenzie Part C course, a respiratory care course and a muscle balance course all of which improves and enhances the level of care and expertise offered here at St.Columcilles Hospital.

PHARMACY

Present Staff: Ms. Jackie Walsh, Chief Pharmacist
Ms. Paula Bradshaw, Senior Pharmacist
Ms. Susan McNamara, Student Pharmaceutical Technician Placement.

New Developments in 1998

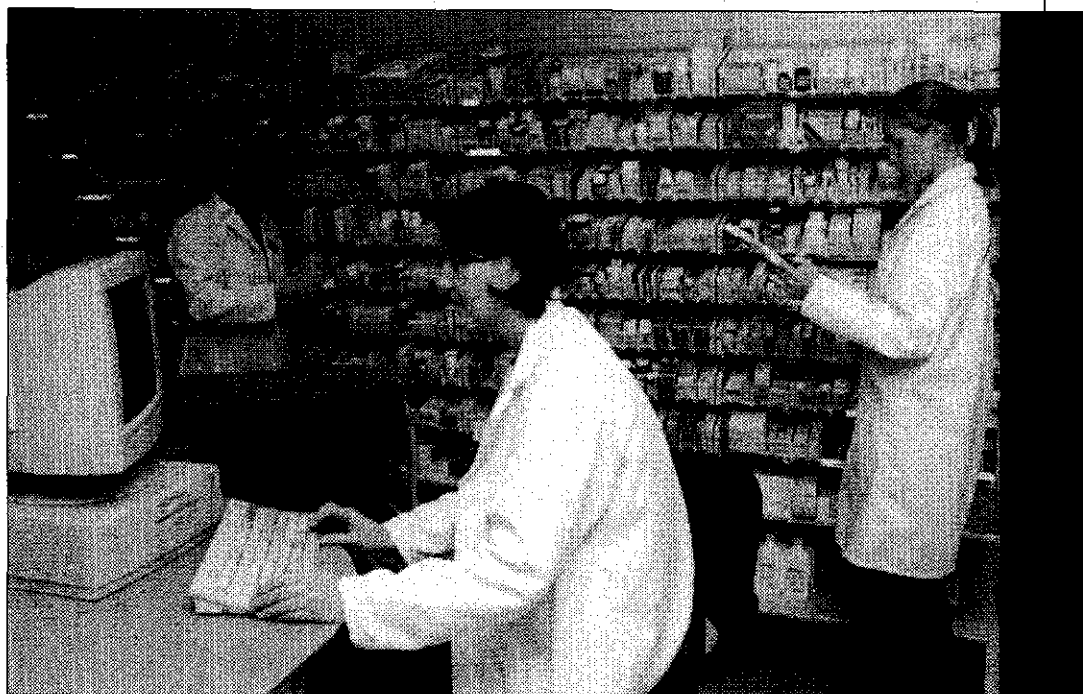
The Pharmacy moved into a new Department in February 1998. The Pharmacy is now a modern, spacious and secure department. It is equipped with specialised pharmacy shelving and work benches. The layout of the Pharmacy allows for effective and efficient purchasing and storage of all pharmaceuticals. It is easier for the staff to carry out accurate dispensing procedures in this spacious environment with increased workbench areas. The Department now has three internal lines and it is easier for the wards and departments to contact the Department regarding any queries they may have. The introduction of pneumatic tube system has proved to be very useful and it is now much easier for patients to receive new prescriptions promptly. The Pharmacy computer system was upgraded and the number of computers increased to three. All issues from the Pharmacy are now entered on the computer and accurate reports of drug expenditure by ward or department are produced and analysed each month. All drugs and medicines are now ordered using the computer system and we have commenced using the stock control system.

Services Provided

The pharmacy department provides an accurate and responsive drug distribution system for all hospital in-patients. The department is responsible for the purchase and storage of all pharmaceutical products. The pharmacy department provides a drug information service for all hospital staff. This service has been improved recently due to the increased number of reference sources now stocked in the Pharmacy.

A Ward Pharmacy and Clinical Service was commenced in September 1997 and is now provided on 50% of the wards. A Pharmacist visits these wards on a daily basis and reviews each patients drug kardex. This new service is an important advance and allows the Pharmacist present on the wards to promote rational drug use and assure safe and cost effective therapy for patients. Both Pharmacists are fully committed to improving the clinical pharmacy service provided and to help achieve this they are both participating in a distance learning Msc in Clinical Pharmacy from Queen's University, Belfast.

50% of all wards receive a top up stock system. A stock list was agreed between the Ward Sisters and the Pharmacist and the stock on the wards is topped up at agreed intervals. It is our goal



to provide a clinical pharmacy service and a top up system for all wards and departments and this will be achieved in the coming year.

Future Developments

The Pharmacy staff plan to work with medical and nursing staff in the Hospital and design a new in-patient drug kardex.

The Pharmacists are planning to provide in-service training and lectures on drug related issues to medical and nursing staff in the coming year.

1998

Occupational Therapy

The Occupational Therapy Department provides a service for in-patients, out-patients and Day Hospital patients. A new Basic Grade Occupational Therapist, Ms. Ann Clare Butler was appointed in March 1998 bringing the total number of staff in the Department to two full-time therapists.

The number of referrals increased from 1,415 in 1997 to 1,608 in 1998 and the number of treatment units increased from 11,743 in 1997 to 14,162 in 1998.

The Occupational Therapy Department provides assessment and treatment in the areas of activities of daily living, cognition and functional independence. Through assessment and therapy the aim is to help the patient to achieve their own maximum level of independence. Home visits may be carried out on those being discharged to advise on management at home, suitable layout of the house or equipment required. In 1998, 46 home visits were carried out by the Occupational Therapy Department. This link between home and hospital provided by the Occupational Therapy Department is essential to ensure safer discharge from Hospital for many patients.

The Occupational Therapy Department has also been involved in giving advice re; suitable equipment for the Hospital such as chairs and bathroom equipment.

In 1998, the Senior Occupational Therapist, Ms. Elaine Cryan was nominated to the Working Group on Interface between Community and Hospital Services. The Group produced their report and recommendations in September 1998 on issues such as Hospital Community Liaison and more efficient and safer discharge home of patients and its implementation is being considered at present.

Social Work Department

The Medical Social Work Department provides a comprehensive social assessment service to all the wards in the Hospital. This service aids in the diagnosis and treatment of the patients where psycho-social factors may be relevant.

The social work staff also play a key role in discharge planning. In 1998, our service to older patients and their families proved to be one of the most challenging areas of work, working closely and in collaboration with our two physicians specialising in Geriatric Medicine the most appropriate placement was found for older patients requiring residential care. Multi-disciplinary team meetings are a feature of life on all the wards now.

Further education of social work staff has been a constant theme throughout the year including attendances at seminars on Bereavement and Children, training days on the implications of the Freedom of Information Act and a further day on Domestic Violence given by the Cork Domestic Violence Project.

1998 has also seen the advertisement of a full-time post of a Basic Grade Social Worker. With this new post it will be envisaged to provide a more comprehensive service to the Care of the Elderly Ward and to increase the service to the Accident and Emergency Department.

In 1998, there have been over 350 deaths on the roads in Ireland. Due to this Hospitals close proximity to the N11 this has led to an increase in the numbers referred following serious Road Traffic Accidents.

This culminated with the Arklow Bus Crash on 14th September 1998. The Social Work Department provided a vital role in dealing with the bereaved relatives of this tragedy. This was achieved by the combined skills of the Social Work Department and Chaplaincy Department. The number of referrals to the Social Work Department in 1998 was 1,482 which is an increase of 25 on 1997.

Pathology Department

1998 was a very eventful year for the Laboratory, particularly the changeover of staff. The new staff include:-

Victor Shaw	-	Technologist in Charge
Martina Gallagher	-	Senior Technician in Histology
Hilary Collins	-	Clinical Chemistry
Bronagh O'Leary	-	Microbiology
Marie McDonald	-	Biochemistry/Haematology

1998 also proved to be a very busy year. Overall there were 120,940 specimens processed an increase of 10% on 1997 and a total increase of 30% in 3 years. The Microbiology service was extended this year to include mycology specimens.

New Developments of Equipment

The introduction of a new Blood Gas Analyser I.L. Synthesis at I.C.U. has allowed more tests to be carried out on site. The Laboratory is now linked to a number of Hospital Departments by a pneumatic tube system. This will improve the turnaround time of the Laboratory and results in a better quality service for the patient.

Committees

Dr. Niamh Nolan

Committees -

Hon. Secretary of South East Dublin
Department of Pathology Member of EQA
Liver Histopathology Committee (UK)

Conferences:

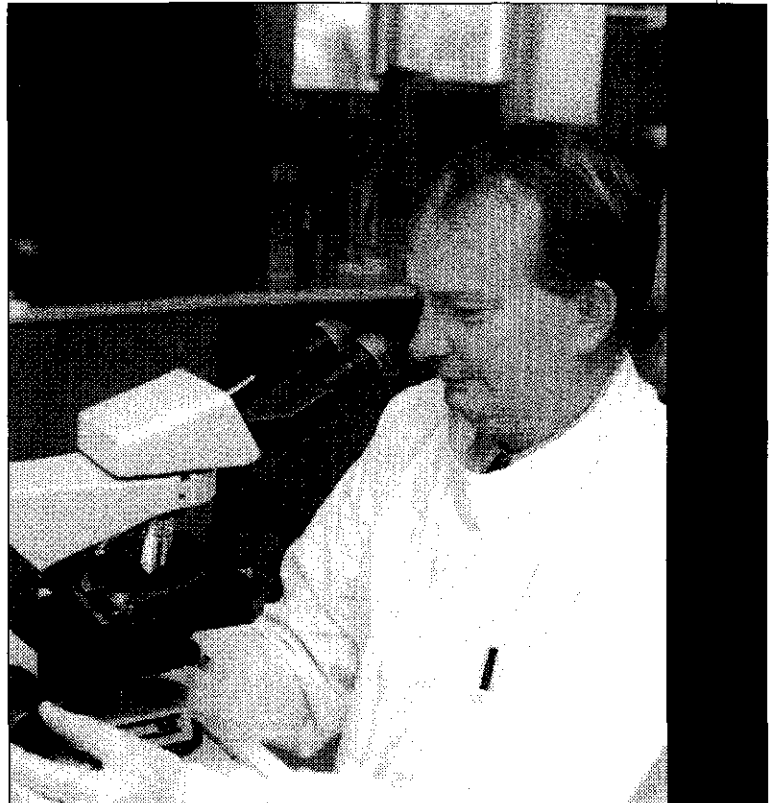
March 1998: Liver EQA, Leeds
May 1998 : Irish Association for
Clinical Cytology
November 1998: American
Association for the Study of Liver
Disease, Chicago.

Publications:

"Resident Human Lymphocytes are
different from circulating Lymphocytes"
Norris, Collijs, Doherty, Smith, McEntee,
Traynor, Nolan, Hegarty and O'Farrelly.
Journal of Hepatology 1998 : 2884-90

Presentations:

"Intrahepatic gamma-delta T
Lymphocytes are reduced in
advanced PBC" Curry, Smith, Nolan,
Hegarty, O'Farrelly
(Poster) American Association for
the study of Liver Diseases, Chicago.



Victor Shaw

Dr. Fiamma Ferraro who undertook a study on liver iron, funded by a HRB grant in the summer of 1997, based in Histopathology in St.Columcilles Hospital, has been awarded first class honours for her thesis on this subject in Bsc examination in June 1998.

Member of the Management Advisory
Body of the Academy of Medical
Laboratory Sciences (A.M.L.S.).

Martina Gallagher · Chairperson of the Cellular Pathology advisory body to AMLS.

Bronagh O' Leary Member of the Microbiology advisory body of AMLS.

Conferences, Meetings and Courses Attended

Suzanne Traynor passed with full distinction and also received first place in Ireland in the Diploma in Healthcare Management from the Institute of Public Administration . She also attended the Corning A.C.S. User Group Meeting in Oxford.

Martina Gallagher is undergoing a Msc in Histology by thesis for Trinity College, Dublin. She also attended the NEQAS Immunohistochemical Workshop in London.

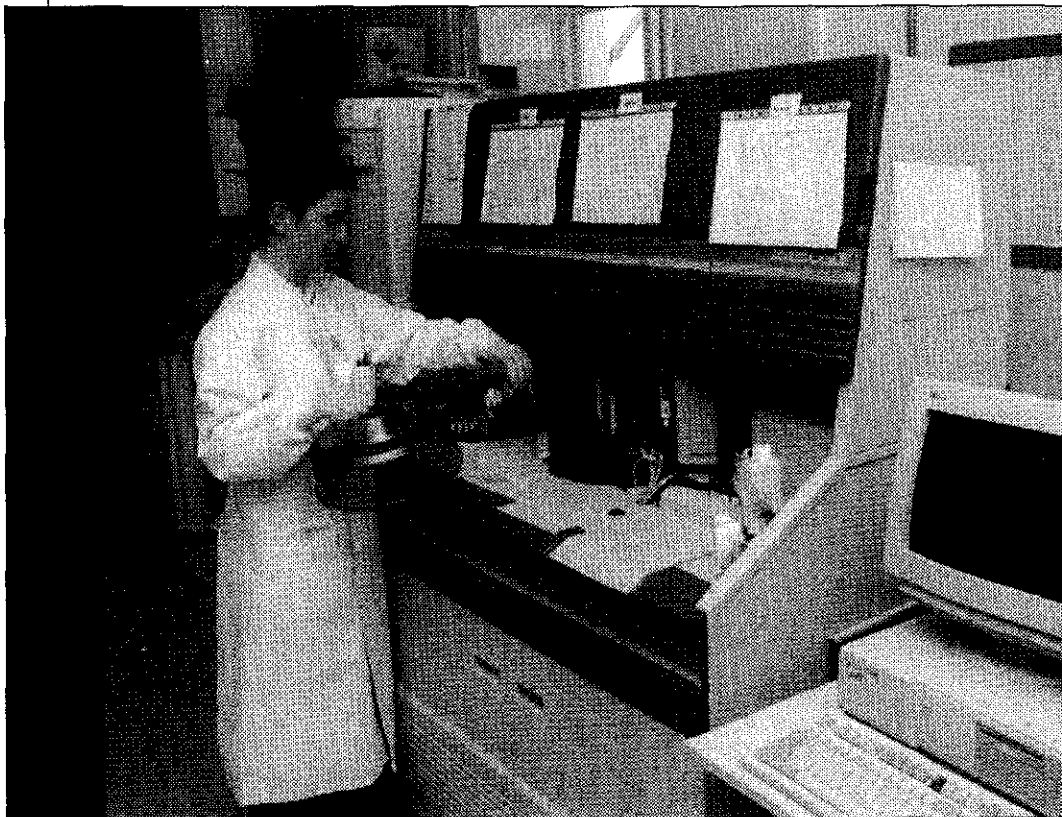
Anne McDonnell attended the "Coagulation Update"organised by Central CQAS.

Victor Shaw chaired the following meetings of the A.M.L.S.:

"The Laboratory and the Law"

"New Movements in Gastroenteritis".

The Laboratory is at present undertaking a quality initiative to improve the service to General Practitioners. This will consist of a questionnaire, the results will be available next year.



Medical Library

The Medical Library of St.Columcilles Hospital continues to expand and is affiliated to the following Groups:-

1. The Irish Healthcare Libraries Group. Through this group the Hospital enjoys the facilities of inter Library loans between approximately forty two Irish Medical Libraries:-
11. The Library is an institutional member of B.M.A. and may borrow journal articles from there also.
111. This year saw the establishment by the Eastern Health Board of the "Regional Library and Information Service". This is an amalgamation of the Eastern Health Board Libraries.

- St.Columcilles Hospital
- James Connolly Memorial Hospital
- St.Brendans Hospital
- St. Ita's Hospital

This Service is co-ordinated by the newly appointed Regional Librarian Ms. Bennery Rickard at Dr.Steevens Hospital. It is planned to establish a Union Current Contents of Journals and special collections and to initiate loan facilities between these Libraries.

A substantial amount of development funding from the Regional Library Information Service has been allocated to St.Columcilles Hospital Library for the coming year. This funding will be targeted at collection development to update and expand existing collections.

Journals

We subscribe to thirty five journals annually which are bound in volumes at the end of each year.

Computer Services

We acquired a new computer from which we access Med Line : 1966-98

Cinahl: 1982 - 98 and some CD Roms e.g. Interactive Grand Rounds in Cardiology.

British Journal of Surgery : 1996 - 97

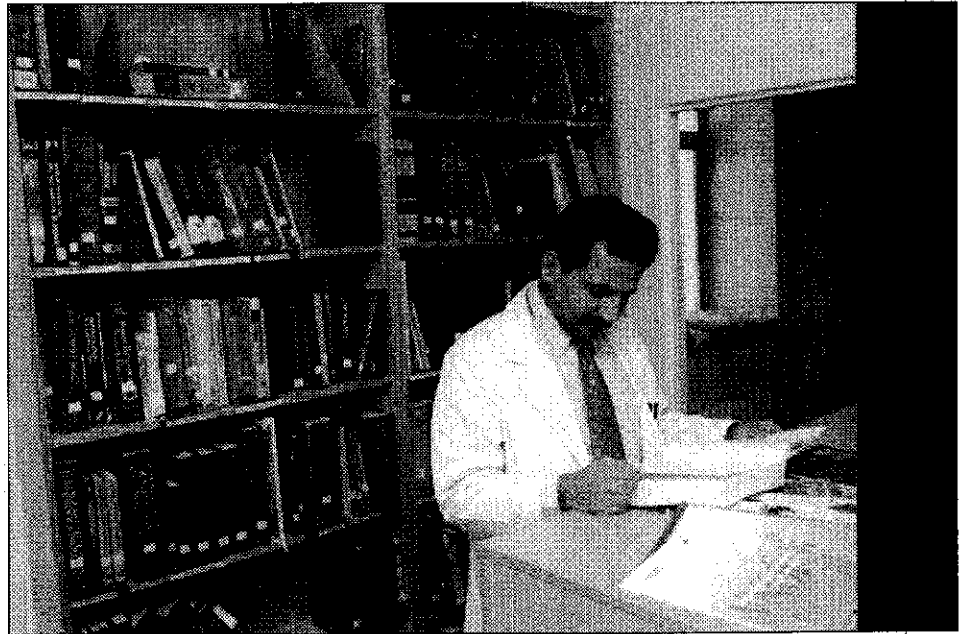
New England Journal of Medicine 92 -95

Ovid Full Text Care Biomedical Collection Demonstration Disc

Facilities

The Library is open by day and night with Computer and Photocopying Services always available. Current journals are available for consultation and photocopying. Funding has been provided for extra Library accessions by U.C.D. and a student co-ordinator is located in the Library who also assists by opening "Closed access areas" when the Librarian is not there.

This year has been a year of changes in our medical library. The Library has been moved from the old premises to a new location



two stories higher. This location has proved very satisfactory with continuous sunshine and has been designed, decorated and furnished to suit our needs as a Library.

The Hospital Librarian continues to provide a professional Library service and looks forward to further innovations in the coming year.

1998

Speech & Language Therapy Department

The Speech and Language Therapy Department provides a service to the Department of the Elderly, Departments of Medicine and Surgery, Orthopaedics, ITU/CCU and Out-patients. The Speech and Language Therapist works as part of the multi-disciplinary team in the management of communication and swallowing difficulties.

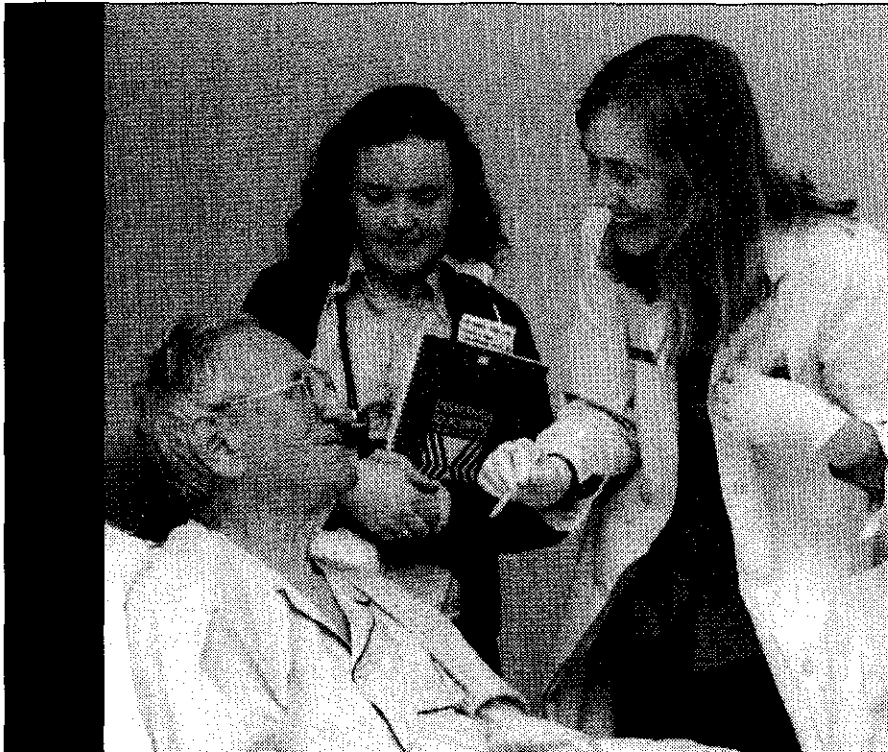
Referrals to the Department continued to increase with numbers up by 13% in recent years. The majority of these are in-patients presenting with various conditions including stroke, head injury, dementia and progressive neurological disease.

As the speech and language therapy service is part-time (5 sessions per week) the increase in demand has placed enormous pressure on the department. However, cognisant of this, hospital management has been involved in negotiations over the past months to develop the service. The introduction of a whole-time senior post is being examined for the coming year. With the retention of the half post, this would mean a complement of 1.5 therapists. This development will lead to a more effective and efficient service.

Education

- The hospital funded attendance at a number of courses/lectures during the past year. These included swallowing management in the tracheostomized and ventilator dependent patient which is particularly relevant to the ITU patient and "cervical auscultation in assessment of swallowing" which has now become part of the assessment procedure at this Hospital.
- Presentations were made at the weekly clinical meetings, one of them addressed staff communication with the stroke patient with the aim of increasing awareness and promoting effective communication with this population.
- The department continued its role in the education/training of final year speech and language therapy students from TCD and provided two clinical placements during the year.

<u>Statistics</u>	<u>Projected 1998</u>	<u>1998 Oct.</u>	<u>1997</u>
Treatments	723	562	717



Department of Nutrition & Dietetics

Activity in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics has increased consistently over the years. Projected activity for year ending December, 1998 is estimated at 2,609 attendances.

General Practitioner referrals, together with ongoing follow-up have increased during 1998 with 100 new referrals per year. Out-patient from Newcastle Hospital have been accommodated and have added to the growing demand on the service. Requests have also come from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service within the catchment area.

It is hoped in the coming year to develop this Department with the upgrading of the part-time position to a full-time post of Dietician. This upgrading will assist in the provision of a more efficient same day service within the Hospital and Out-patients Department and will also allow greater input to the following areas:-

- Continuing liaison commitment to Catering Department
- Education of Domestic ward staff
- Regular input into Day Hospital
- Updating therapeutic diet sheets and overall administrative management of Nutrition Department.

Friends of St.Columcilles Hospital

In 1998, the Friends of St.Columcilles Hospital continued to organise fund raising activities on behalf of the Hospital. These included a Golf Classic, Hospital Field Day, Concerts, Flag Day, Raffles and Race Nights.

The Committee donated a Play Station and games to St.Agnes Childrens Ward and an Intercom system with background music to St. Annes Medical Ward.

The Committee have raised funds in excess of £200,000 on behalf of the Hospital for the purchase of a C.T. Scanner. This equipment has been ordered and the service will commence in early 1999.

We are very grateful to the Friends of St.Columcilles Hospital who continue to raise funds on behalf of the Hospital. Their ongoing efforts and contribution to the Hospital is very much appreciated.

Catering Department

The aim of the Catering Department is to provide a quality, fast, effective and friendly service for patients and staff alike. The Department caters for over 600 meals a day for patients and staff which are prepared to a high standard, with a variety of choices available.

Meals on Wheels are provided to the following areas: Ballybrack, Johnstown, Enniskerry, Monkstown Day Care Centre and the Open Door Centre in Bray. There are ongoing improvements being made in this area and continued communication between the Meals on Wheels Supervisors and the Catering Officer ensures an excellent service. In 1998, the Catering Department supplied 16,192 meals on wheels to the Community.

The emphasis in 1998 was on staff recruitment and training with briefing sessions regularly taking place in order to achieve the highest standard possible and bring staff up to date in relation to Health and Safety and Food Hygiene procedures. This also enables staff to offer suggestions or improvements and participate in the day to day running, of the Catering Department.

Further improvements are planned for 1999 with the Catering Officer preparing a blueprint for the future of the Catering Services in the Hospital.

Ms. Susan Shaw the new Assistant Catering Officer took up duty in November 1998 and we look forward to her in-put to the Catering Department.



Technical Services Department

Routine maintenance of facilities, plant and equipment took place in 1998 together with the provision of a service to the Hospital for carrying out minor works and ongoing repairs. These works were carried out by our staff in the mechanical, plumbing, electrical, carpentry/building, painting and gardening sections.

As part of the on-going programme of upgrading of accommodation in the Hospital the following priority works of a larger nature were carried out:-

- Extension and upgrading of the Radiology Department to accommodate the C.T. Scanning Service.
- Replacement of old wooden windows in St.Annes Ward.
- Painting, decoration, upgrading of Bathroom/Toilet facilities in St.Annes Ward.
- Replacement of heating system in the former Convent.
- New cabling installed throughout Hospital to accommodate new Computer Networking System and new telephone system.

The Technical Services staff under the direction of Mr. Michael Kinsella, Engineering Officer, Mr. Willie McKenna, Maintenance Officer and Mr. Peter Nolan, Maintenance Foreman have made a tremendous contribution throughout 1998 in maintaining the Hospital at the highest standard and are to be complimented on their achievements.

Chaplaincy Department

The Chaplaincy Department at St. Columcilles Hospital has a full-time Catholic Priest, Father Simeon Breen and a part-time Church of Ireland Minister, Rev. Fred Appleby. There are 10 Ministers of the Eucharist who assist with the distribution of Holy Communion to the patients. There are also two conferences of the St. Vincent De Paul Society who visit the patients once a week and who also supply books, audio-books and magazines. Students from the Milltown Institute of Theology visit the patients as part of their pastoral preparation programme.

The aim of the Department is to supply full pastoral care to the patients, their families and to the staff on a 24 hour basis. This involves:-

Offering all patients the spiritual support of their faiths, tradition by being available to all patients for emergency sacramental ministry.

Administering the Sacraments, the daily celebration of the Eucharist and particularly administering the Sacrament of the Sick to those who are seriously ill or undergoing surgery.

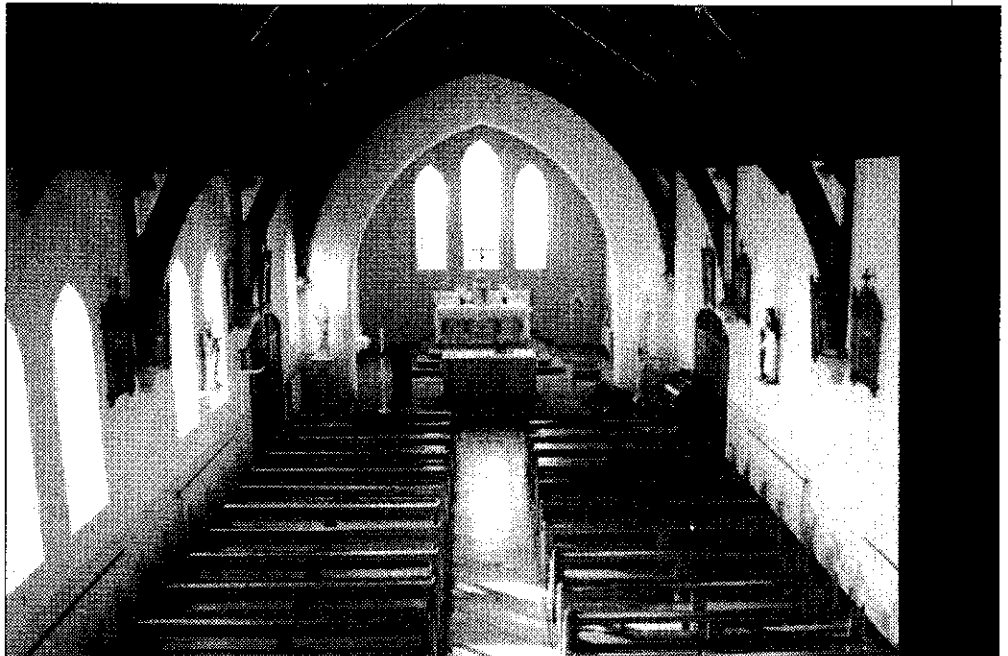
- Providing ongoing support to patients, both spiritual and emotional in their illness and especially those who are critically or terminally ill.
- Providing ongoing support to families in their concern for their relatives by being available to them when hospitalisation is sudden, unexpected and traumatic. Also, supporting families in situations of critical diagnosis and terminal illness.
- By where necessary providing some form of grief counselling with relatives who have been bereaved.
- By offering support and concern for the staff throughout the Hospital.

A very large part of the work of the Chaplaincy Department is with relatives in time of death and the new Mortuary facility that was extended and refurbished in recent years has been a great support in that work.

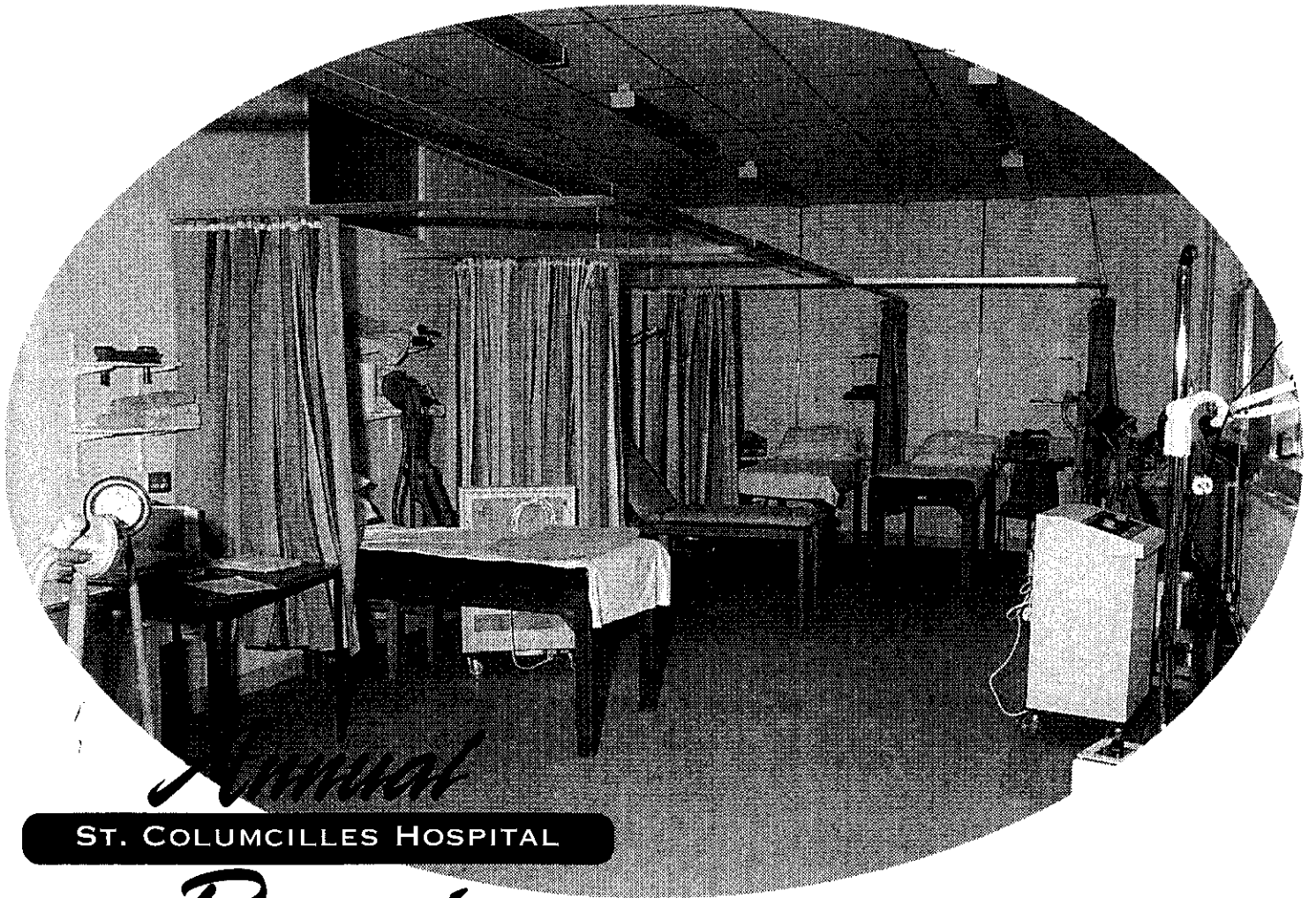
Relatives are escorted to the Mortuary to identify their loved ones and the Chaplains are available to say prayers before the departure of all funerals.

It is the aim of the Chaplaincy Department to work closely with all other disciplines in the Hospital and this we feel has proved to be very successful in the total care of the patient and their families.

In September 1998, Father Arthur Larkin, who was Chaplain to St. Columcilles Hospital since 1990 took up duty in the Parish of Clonskeagh. Father Simeon Breen replaced Father Larkin as Chaplain. Fr. Breen is a member of the Capuchin Order and was assigned to a diocese in Belfast prior to taking up his appointment at St. Columcilles Hospital.



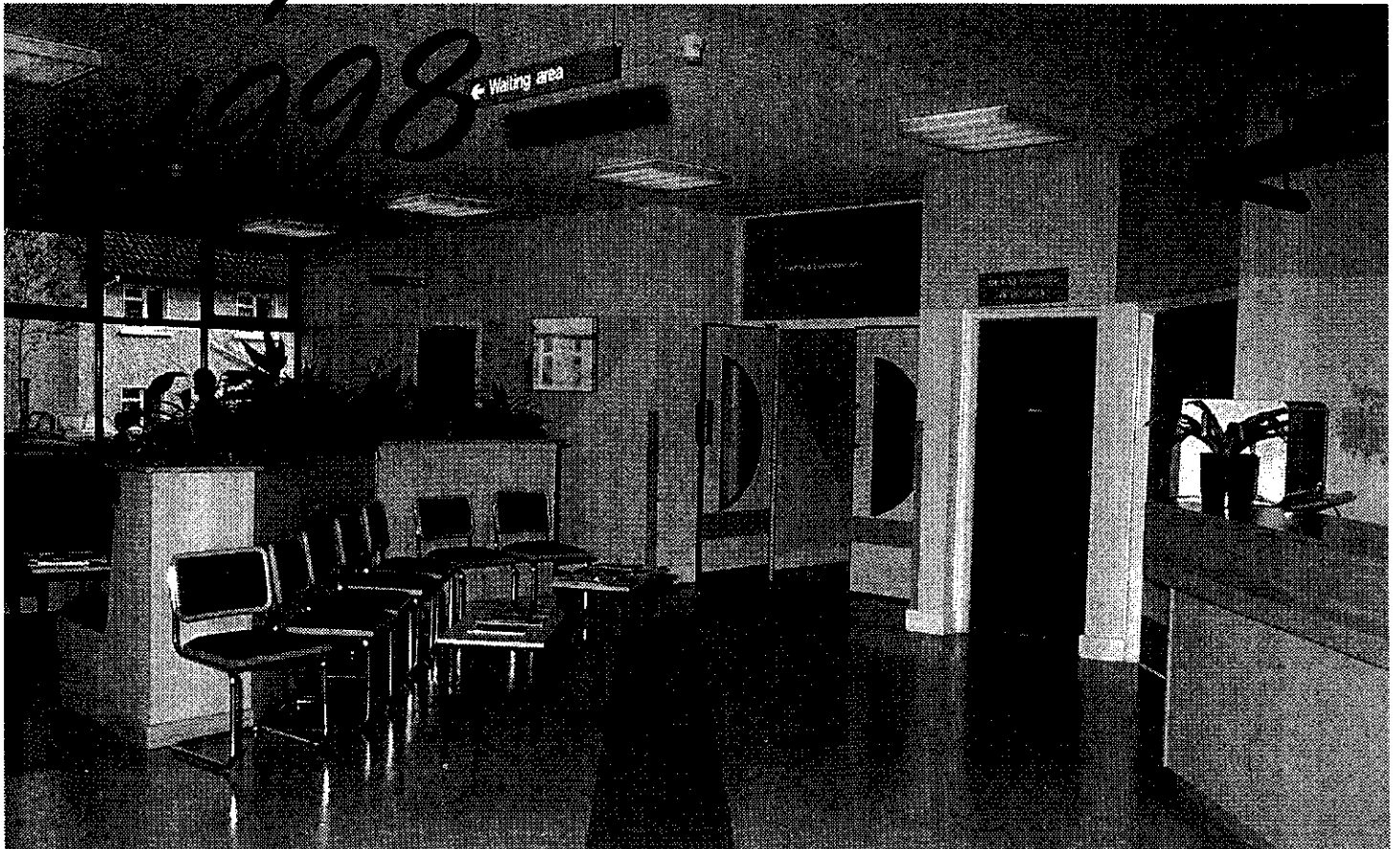




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← Waiting area

APPENDIX 1.

Out-Patients Clinics

Day	Time	Consultant	Specialty
Monday	9.00 a.m.	Dr. Morgan Crowe	Geriatric Medicine
	9.00 a.m.	Dr. Orla Shiel/ Dr. P. McParland	Gynaecology
	9.00 a.m.	Dr. Grainne Flannelly	Obstetrics (Greystones)
	1.30 p.m.	Mr. Kieran O'Rourke	Orthopaedic/Fracture
	1.30 p.m.	Dr. O. Shiel	Obstetrics (Wicklow)
	2.00 p.m.	Mr. John Hyland	General Surgery
	Every 2nd Monday (Arklow)	10.00 a.m.	Mr. Declan Magee
Tuesday	9.30 a.m.	Dr. G. Chadwick	General Medicine
	9.30 a.m.	Dr. O. Shiel	Obstetrics
	11.00 a.m.	Mr. D. Quinlan	Urologist
	2.00 p.m.	Mr. Gary Brow	General Surgery
	2.00 p.m.	Mr. Stephen Sheehan	Leg Ulcer Clinic
Wednesday	9.00 a.m.	Dr. John Fennell	General Medicine
	9.00 a.m.	Dr. Mary Wingfield	Obstetrics (Arklow)
	2.00 p.m.	Mr. Declan Magee	General Surgery
	2.00 p.m.	Dr. Kinross Burke	Pain Relief
Thursday			
1st & 3rd Thursday of each month	8.00 a.m.	Dr. John Fennell	Diabetic
	9.00 a.m.	Dr. Grainne Flannelly	Obstetrics (Bray)
2nd Thursday of each month	9.00 a.m.	Dr. John Fennell	Lipid
Last Thursday of each month	9.00 a.m.	Dr. John Fennell	Asthma
	1.30 p.m.	Mr. E. Kelly	Ortho/Fracture
Friday	10.00 a.m.	Mr. Stephen Sheehan	General Surgery
Every Second Friday	11.00 a.m.	Dr. Hugh Gallagher	Cardiology
	1.30 p.m.	Dr. Peter Quigley	Pain Relief

APPENDIX 2.**Obstetrics/Gynaecology - Out-patient Statistics**

Statistics 1.1.1998 - 31.12.1998

	Sessions	New	Return	Total October	Est. 1998
Arklow Health Centre	31	104	476	580	696
Wicklow Health Centre	31	123	668	791	949
Bray Health Centre	32	136	548	684	821
Greystones Health Centre	34	92	434	526	631
St. Columcilles Hospital (Ante-Natal)	34	123	723	846	1,015
St. Columcilles Hospital (Gynae Clinic)	34	143	194	337	404
Total	196	721	3,043	3,764	4,516

APPENDIX 3.**X-Ray Department - St. Columcilles Hospital**

X-Ray Examinations for period January - December 1998

	October 1998	Ext. 1998
Barium Swallow/Meal	176	211
Barium Enema	167	200
I.V.P.	89	107
Chest	8,860	10,632
Abdomen/KUB	1,705	2,046
Skeletons	18,748	22,498
Venograms	52	62
Sub Total	29,797	35,756

Ultrasound Examinations

General	1,604	1,925
Pregnancy	164	197
Total	31,565	37,878

APPENDIX 4.

Laboratory Statistics 1998.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV Est	DEC Est	Projected 1998
MICROBIOLOGY													
Urine	550	558	553	618	498	602	684	562	616	594	680	550	7065
Faeces	99	109	108	140	96	109	140	90	144	117	150	110	1412
Sputa	73	80	72	85	53	62	71	74	81	60	70	50	831
Swabs	320	239	341	339	227	306	325	293	377	374	400	320	3861
Blood Culture	118	132	123	172	119	154	186	146	131	169	150	130	1730
Fluids ¹ (inc. CSF's)	12	3	5	5	8	6	15	7	22	14	5	5	107
Misc (HCG/BIP)	6	6	8	12	7	4	3	3	7	8	5	5	74
	1178	1127	1210	1371	1008	1243	1424	1175	1378	1336	1460	1170	15,080
HAEMATOLOGY													
F.R.C.'s	2,011	1,920	2,332	2,312	2,104	2,227	2,128	1,880	2,248	2,294	2,350	2,100	25,906
Blood Films	113	175	210	151	115	137	168	183	227	189	210	170	2048
ESR's	704	610	689	713	632	659	557	510	587	576	550	520	7307
Coagulation	1,218	1,111	1,387	1,537	1,508	1,544	1,353	1,364	1,534	1,714	1,750	1,520	17540
Others	38	36	49	35	28	48	46	43	52	75	40	30	520
	4,084	3,852	4,667	4,748	4,387	4,615	4,252	3,980	4,648	4,848	4,900	4,340	53,321

Laboratory Statistics 1998 - Continued

Blood Transfusion

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV Est	DEC Est	Projected 1998
Blood Groups	80	71	73	103	67	95	72	80	79	99	90	75	984
Crossmatching	146	107	132	111	111	130	69	116	116	134	130	110	1412
Others	2	45	10	148	9	17	20	15	25	31	25	20	367
Bio Chemistry	2,796	2,712	3,052	3,125	2,921	3,276	3,341	3,028	3,304	3,372	3,400	3,100	37,427

THYROID FUNCTION TESTS

TSH	385	366	434	396	383	442	482	383	313	457	450	350	4841
Free T4	83	72	110	97	102	109	109	76	99	108	105	80	1150
Total T3	29	28	50	41	47	48	44	35	33	48	45	30	478
Blood gases	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	3000
Digoxins	36	41	35	37	46	33	37	31	37	29	30	25	417
Histology/ Cytology	120/17	114/25	126/24	118/34	108/13	127/27	126/23	106/25	133/34	151/26	150/15	100/15	1757
Iron/TIBC	52	39	62	43	34	38	41	25	45	17	30	25	451
Ferritins	58	59	78	93	84	73	55	44	50	41	45	35	715
Total	4,054	3,929	4,436	4,596	4,175	4,665	4,669	4,214	4,518	4,763	4,765	4,215	52,999

Laboratory Statistics 1998 - Continued

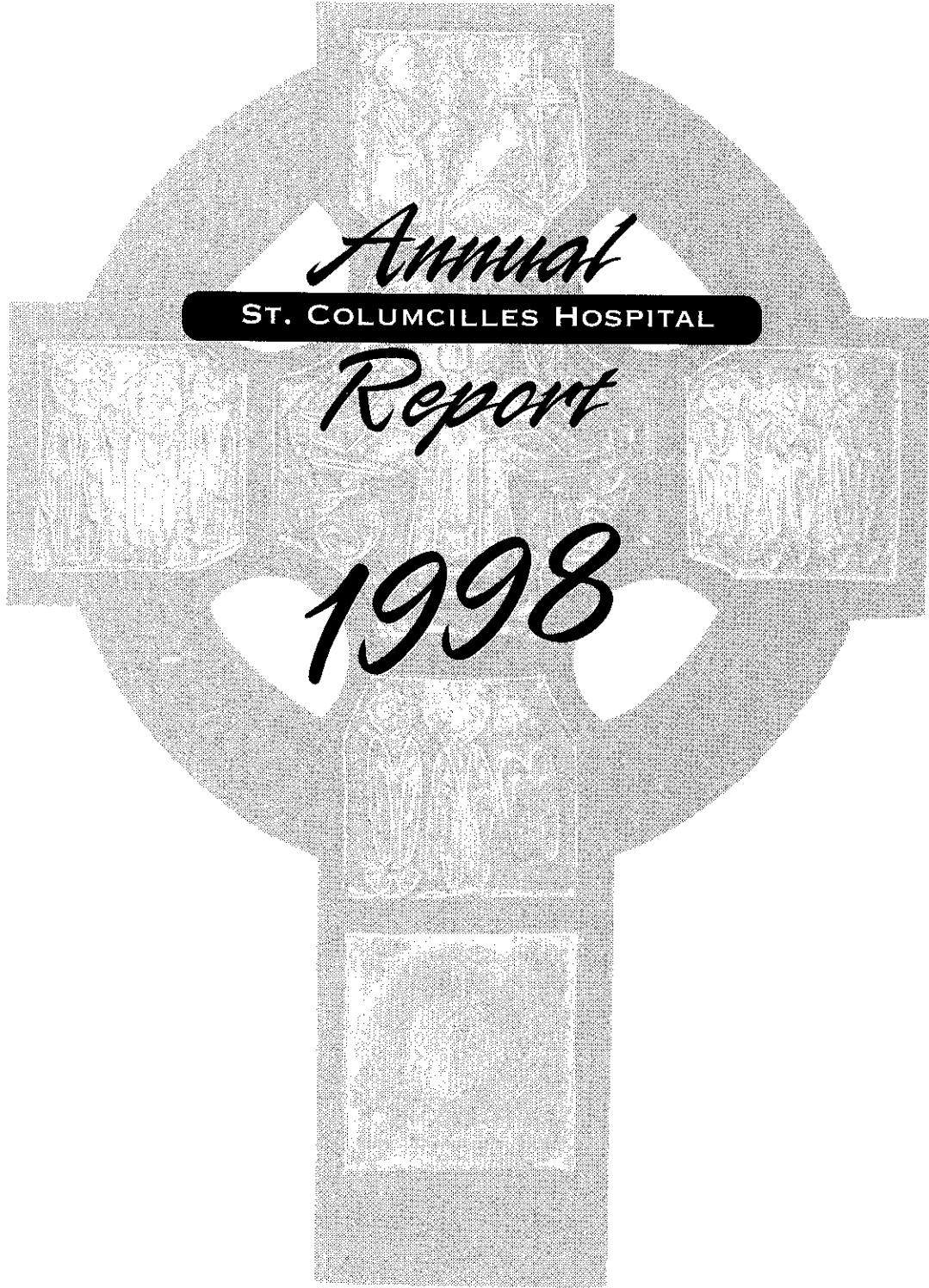
External tests

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV Est	DEC Est	Projected 1998
St. Vincents Routine	582	528	555	551	542	609	609	567	656	650	600	650	7,099
St. Vincents On call	51	52	55	74	64	56	90	90	73	78	75	70	828
Virus Ref. Lab	79	68	60	63	60	80	66	61	63	62	65	56	783
Beaumont	69	87	76	98	98	103	83	83	84	71	81	80	1013
TOTAL	781	735	746	786	764	848	848	801	876	861	821	856	9,723

G.P. ACCESS

G.P. Access Scheme	2071	2120	2284	2269	2007	2200	2650	2124	2558	2750	2900	2200	28,133
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